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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Palestinian, Gulf Issues

JN2011200690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1737 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by Ahmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Brother Abu-'Ammar, the Gulf crisis is now at its peak, and the Palestinian intifadah is coming close to ending its third year. What are the options available to the Palestinian struggle to implement the decision to establish the Palestinian state that was announced two years ago?

['Arafat] I would like to recall what I said when I left Beirut. I said that the typhoon in the region will not stop. Many have not been following what I said. Now, the typhoon in the region... [changes thought] You know there are some typhoons that have an eye. They call it the eye of the typhoon [preceding words in English]. Now the typhoon has two eyes: an eye in Palestine and an eye in the Gulf. Of course when we say in Palestine we mean all that the Arab-Israeli conflict comprises, whether in Lebanon, the Golan, or in Palestine. This typhoon has two eyes now: an eye in the Gulf and an eye in our region, in the Middle East. This is the important thing.

No one can solve one problem without solving the other problem, that is that the Gulf crisis cannot be settled without settling the Middle East crisis. One cannot apply a specific yardstick concerning the implementation of UN resolutions and international legitimacy in the Gulf region and not apply the same yardstick to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian cause.

Events have proved that the Gulf crisis is not a local crisis. Foreign interference, U.S. interference, European interference, and international interference have transformed it into a world crisis that concerns the entire world. In spite of this, the Gulf crisis has not succeeded in either obscuring the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Palestinian people's intifadah. I believe that Shamir's statement yesterday—a rash and disturbing statement made by Shamir that greater Israel, from the sea to the river, is part of greater Israel—this exposes the scheme not only against Palestine and the Palestinian people, or the Arab nation, but against the world at large because there can be no stability, peace, or security in the Middle East or this entire region known as the Mediterranean basin, including Europe, the Arab nation, and other countries. There can be no stability for them without a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian cause. This includes ending the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan, and hoisting of the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem because it is the capital of the State of Palestine. The flag will be raised on the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem.

This is the crux of the problem in the Gulf. When President Saddam Husayn says that the solution in the Gulf is linked to the solution of the conflict in the Middle East, this means the real linkage of the crises of the region.

I want to say something, and let those near and far understand me well. This blessed intifadah will continue, wave after wave, whether the Israelis like it or not; whether Shamir accepts it or not; whether Arens or Sharon want it or not. They should understand a very clear fact: that this intifadah will continue, God willing, wave after wave until victory. Let Bush and Baker also hear me say this. One yardstick is acceptable, not two, when dealing with international legitimacy.

[Birru] Abu-'Ammar, the Security Council passed a resolution to dispatch an investigation team on the al-Aqsa mosque massacre in Jerusalem. Israel asked for—and succeeded in—replacing the investigation committee with a personal envoy of the UN secretary general. Do you believe there has been an international retreat under American pressure?

['Arafat] Regrettably, America is playing a strange role. I do not want to be tough; but in this issue I should be tough. It is playing a suspect role. America is protecting Israeli aggression; it is protecting Israeli crimes; it is protecting the Israeli occupation and its continuation; and now it is protecting the annexation of Arab territory in Lebanon, in the Golan, and in Palestine, to make it part of Greater Israel. Not only this, America used the veto seven times to protect Israel, Israel's crimes, and the continuation of the Israeli occupation. Meanwhile it approves nine resolutions on the Gulf crisis in less than two months.

I say that this position announced by Shamir is in reality a position of defiance. It is a declaration of war against the Arab nation and the Islamic nation. This is because the crime is Judaization of these Arab territories and Judaization of the Islamic and Christian holy places in front of the entire world. I would like say: Is this not part of American bribery and the price paid by America to its strategic ally, Israel, to remain (?influential) in the Gulf crisis? Is this not the talk? Is this not contrary to the most basic principles of the U.S. Constitution and human rights? I say to American public opinion: Is this not against the simplest principles of the U.S. Constitution, human principles, and humanitarian laws of the United Nations?

[Birru] Abu-'Ammar, you wagered a great deal on the European role, particularly the French role to achieve a just settlement of the Palestine question in the face of American support for Israel. What is the state of Palestinian relations with the West European countries, particularly France, in light of the new developments in the West Bank, Gaza, and in the Gulf?

['Arafat] I want to point out something important: The important thing is that, through the strategic alliance between Israel and America—and while exploiting the Gulf crisis—sophisticated weapons such as the Patriot missile and the most modern American war machinery

are heaped on Israel. This is in addition to funds—the 700 millions, 400 millions, and 1 billion. A simple calculation will show that Israel gained $2 billion in addition to $3.5 billion it takes continuously from America. Should this not be taken into account when we are looking at the developments in our Arab region? We should know the American objectives in the region.

On this occasion I want to say to our nation: Is there a nation that waits for a destructive war against itself? Is it possible that there is a nation with history, civilization, and genuineness waiting for war to break out? Is this reasonable? It is not averting war; it is waiting. Regrettably, some Arab leaders are calling for war, for the explosion of the situation, for a war that will destroy everything, and for a war in which there will be no victors. They are calling for a war between Arab financial strength and Arab military power so that both will be destroyed.

This is where the distinguished European role comes in—a role that rejects beating the American drums of war. This was also announced by President Mitterrand and President Gorbachev yesterday; before that, it was announced during the Soviet-European dialogue. Kohl, the PRC, and Japanese positions also indicated this. This is also the Palestinian position.

I want to remind our Arab nation of something by asking it: Was this not the original Palestinian position? As we said, we do not want resolutions of condemnation but an Arab solution with international backing. Have we not said this before? Now there is an international consensus on what we and a few other Arab leaders had declared. Now the whole world is seeking this, except some scattered voices in the U.S. Administration. The American Congress is against the war, and even the U.S. Administration is divided on the issue. Hence we have to say that what is most important for us is to take a firm position to preserve our Arab nation's future, wealth, blood, and sanctities. We should further develop this because—while Europe says yes to a link among the Palestine question, the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Gulf crisis—every Arab should take the initiative to compete with Europe, the Soviet Union, Japan, and the PRC over this position. Only the United States and Israel are saying no to this linkage.

[Birru] Abu-'Ammar, King Hassan II has called for a new Arab summit. You are working to find an acceptable Arab solution. Is that still possible?

['Arafat] In fact there are continuous meetings among what we call the states of the Arab solution which say that there should be every effort to reach an Arab solution with international support. We are practical. I cannot ignore the presence of this armada, all these naval fleets and foreign forces in the Gulf, and call only for an Arab solution. It is an Arab solution with an international element. But how? This can be done through inter-Arab contacts beginning with two, three, or four states to pave the way for that Arab solution. The international solution will take place only at our Arab nation's expense.

Have we not seen the agreement that has taken place in Europe? That agreement in Europe yesterday should prompt us to make sure that the accord, agreement, and international detente do not take place at our expense in the future. It should be in our favor, and we should participate in it. How can we participate in it while our nation awaits the blow? Is this reasonable? Hence the meetings among the various parties, including King Hassan II, King Husayn, and President Chadli Bendjedid; and before these my meetings on all Arab and international levels, brother Colonel Mu'ammar's initiative, and the initiatives launched by Yemen, Sudan, and the Arab Maghreb Union summit were all aimed at preserving this unified Arab position for the sake of an Arab solution through an Arab summit. But if we hold a hasty Arab summit, it will be like other summits.

[Birru] Abu-Ammar, President Bush's visit to Saudi Arabia and Egypt is part of the U.S. tilt toward confrontation and away from efforts to find a peaceful solution. How do you assess this visit?

['Arafat] Bush and Mrs. Thatcher are still beating the drums of war. But does Bush think it is a Vietnam? He should understand that this is not Vietnam. The Vietnam war was a classic war launched by the U.S. Army and its allies against guerrillas in the bush. Nevertheless, what was the result?

But the coming war will have the richest and most volatile part of the world as its scene. It is the oil region, containing the biggest strategic oil reserves; they say that 70-80 percent of the world's oil reserves are found in the region. This means the future of humanity. Nakasone told me that if war breaks out we will return to the Ice Age. I told him we might return to the Stone Age and he said no, to the Ice Age. This being the case, I call upon the masses of our Arab nation to understand how grave the situation is and to realize the importance of the Palestinian position, which has been pushing and will continue to push things toward a peaceful solution to the crisis to spare the Arab nation and the Arab generations the scourge of war and foreign intervention and presence.

I tell President Bush that you, Europe, Japan, and the entire world have interests in the region and that the Arab nation is ready to turn a new page. As you turned a new page in Paris yesterday, why do you not turn a new page with the Arab nation and the peoples of the Middle East, far from war, destruction, and the weapons of mass destruction that will leave nothing behind? No one will survive.

There are common interests in the world. As you see common interests between the East and the West, come and see the common interests between you and the Arab nation and between you and the peoples of the Middle East.

[Birru] Abu-'Ammar, I have a question about Palestinian-Lebanese relations. President Ilyas al-Hirawi

stressed that he rejects any armed presence in Lebanon except for the legitimate Lebanese Government. This applies to armed Palestinian presence. He also refused to discuss a new agreement with the PLO.

['Arafat] I hope that my brother, President al-Hirawi for whom I have all respect, appreciates that these subjects are not to be discussed through statements. There is a military Palestinian force—and he knows it is not in the form of a militia. It is part of the Palestine Liberation Army which also maintains a presence in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Algeria, Libya, and all Arab countries. But we support Lebanon's full sovereignty and the return of legitimacy to every part of Lebanese territory. We support the unity of the Lebanese people and territory, and we do not interfere in Lebanese affairs. But we are confronting the Israeli occupation of Lebanon in order to protect our camps in the south from another Sabra and Shatila. There was a raid against us only yesterday. There are air, naval, and ground operations. There was also a raid this morning. I am saying we are there to confront this. With love, brotherhood, and cooperation we can handle the issue. This, I think, is not at variance with the al-Ta'if agreement. I heard this from His Majesty King Hassan, President Chadli Bendjedid, and His Majesty King Fahd; namely, that this issue will be solved by understanding, brotherhood, and in a comprehensive context.

[Birru] Abu-'Ammar, would you like to add anything?

['Arafat] I want to send special greetings to the protectors of al-Aqsa mosque, the holy sepulcher, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. I tell them: Let the Israeli Government blunder on in its rotten dreams. We have a date on the land of Palestine, the land to which the prophet made his night journey and ascension to heaven, and the cradle of Christ. We will meet to raise the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem's walls, minarets, and churches; over Palestine and its capital, holy Jerusalem. In the fourth year of the intifadah we have a date with victory, with dawn and with the state, which is only a stone's throw away.

'Arafat Views Shamir's 'Declaration of War'

NC2011171890 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, Nov 20 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Tuesday said a statement by the Israeli Prime Minister that his country would hold on to Arab occupied territories for Jewish immigrants was a "declaration of war".

"This is a declaration of war against the Arab nation," said Mr. 'Arafat.

Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks "prove that the Israeli leaders have a plan aimed at definitively annexing the occupied territories to consider them part of Greater Israel," said the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader.

Mr. 'Arafat accused the United States of "complicity" with Israel in its quest to "refuse the Palestinian people their national and historic rights and to attempt to waste the wealth of the Arab nation and to shed its blood."

Mr. Shamir Sunday told veterans from his right-wing Likud bloc that Israel was "committed to holding onto Greater Israel from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan for the sake of the future generations and a massive immigration."

For Mr. Shamir, Greater Israel is a term that encompasses the occupied territories—the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip which Israel occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Jerusalem was also occupied during the June war and subsequently annexed by Israel, which considers it part of its united capital.

Mr. 'Arafat said massive Jewish immigration to Israel was a serious threat to the Christian and Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and to the "security and future of the Middle East."

'Arafat Receives Gorbachev Envoy Petrovskiy

LD1711191290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The brother president-leader Abu 'Ammar, president of the state of Palestine, received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during his audience with Mr. Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy foreign minister and special envoy of the Soviet president.

The envoy has conveyed President Gorbachev's greetings and congratulations to the brother president-leader Abu-'Ammar on the occasion of the second anniversary of the declaration of independence. President Abu-'Ammar asked the Soviet envoy to convey his warm greetings to President Gorbachev, and his wishes that his wise policies succeed.

Brother president-leader Abu-'Ammar reviewed in detail during the audience the worsening situation in the occupied territories, which results from the continued occupation and Israel's rejection of the implementation of the UN resolutions on the Palestinian problem, as well as the escalation of its wanton aggression and terrorism against our people.

They also examined the topic of the Soviet Jews' emigration, its dangers, and repercussions on the situation in occupied Palestine and the region as a whole.

The brother president talked about the outcome of the UN Security Council's meetings, demanding the need to provide international protection for our people inside the occupied territories, and asserting that international legitimacy should be indivisible. The brother president also dealt with the nature of the situation in the Gulf and the possibilities of finding solutions to avert war and the military choice, stressing the need for continuous efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework and under an international umbrella,

and pointing out the various initiatives and ideas that the PLO has put forward in this respect.

For his part, the Soviet envoy stressed the need for greater efforts that might lead to a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, pointing out that at the same time, the Soviet Union supports the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights.

PPSF Claims Credit for Clash With IDF

JN2011211390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] A responsible military source in the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has claimed responsibility for the daring fedayeen operation against the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon which resulted in the killing of a Zionist lieutenant and the martyrdom of four PPSF fighters.

The source said that at 0700 Monday, while martyr 'Umar al-Mukhtar group was on its way to occupied Palestine, it clashed with the Zionist enemy forces in a fierce battle during which the enemy used all kinds of weapons including helicopters. The source added that the other members of the group returned safe to base. The four martyrs are: Martyr First Lieutenant Samir 'Izz-al-Din al-Shami from Lebanon, martyr Muhammad 'Umar al-Sharif from Libya, martyr 'Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hamid from Palestine, and martyr Hamadah Hasan from Syria.

Zionist warplanes continued low-altitude sorties over southern Lebanon and the coast all day long.

PLO's Abu-Sharif Reiterates Adherence to Peace

JN2011082590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) adheres to its stand and principles which call for comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a political solution with guarantees from the world's major powers for the right of the Palestinians to establish their independent state in Palestine side by side with the state of Israel exisiting within secure and recognised borders, according to Bassam Abu-Sharif, an advisor to Palestine Preisdent and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Abu-Sharif, in a call addressed to the world leaders meeting in Paris to discuss European security and occupation, said that the PLO and the Palestine National Council (PNC) had been exerting efforts to reach an equitable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and will continue to pursue that goal.

"The security of Europe is directly linked to that of the Middle East and the events in the Gulf and Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab territories have direct impact on Europe's security," said Abu-Sharif in the statement, a copy of which was telexed to the Jordan Times.

He urged the world leaders to discuss the Middle East questions with seriousness and responsibility and to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis and an end to Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

Abu-Sharif referred to Isreal's illegal measures and said the Israeli government was pursuing "a plan of swallowing up all Arab lands and building settlements for the Jewish immigrants in flagrant violation of international laws and United Nations resolutions."

Abu-Sharif called on the world leaders in Paris to reach resolutions that would ensure the implementation of international law and U.N. resolutions and ensure the rights of the Palestinian people.

Abu-Sharif said the United States in particular has special responsibilities since it can put an end to Israel's practices and human rights violations. He also demanded that international legitimacy be applied equally to the Gulf and Palestine and end Israel's occupation of Arab land.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Bangladesh's Ershad Arrives in Maldives

BK2011164790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The fifth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit begins in the Maldives tomorrow. President Ershad arrived in Male this afternoon to lead the Bangladesh delegation at the summit. He is accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Madame Gayoom received the distinguished guests at the aiport. Two children presented bouquets to President and Begum Ershad. A guard of honor was given to President Ershad. He inspected the guard and took the salute. The president was then conducted to the presentation line where waiting dignitaries were introduced to him. School children attired in colorful uniforms and with miniature flags in hands danced to greet the Bangladesh president. The airport ceremony over, the president was taken to (Kuruma) village by a launch where he will be staying.

India's Premier Shekhar Comments on SAARC

BK2111091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries to initiate joint efforts to put an end to tension in the region. He was speaking to our correspondent at the Delhi airport before leaving for the Maldives to attend the fifth SAARC summit opening at Male today.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he will seek cooperation from SAARC members to come to a common understanding for eliminating poverty and hunger and for consolidated effort to bring peace in the region. Describing drug abuse as a

menace facing the entire world, the prime minister said India would contribute whatever it can to the SAARC to check drug trafficking among its member countries.

Reacting to Pakistan's suggestion that SAARC should also discuss political issues and bilateral disputes, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said such disputes should not be brought into SAARC. He said SAARC is more a forum for cooperation and not for confrontation or issues of a bilateral nature.

The prime minister is leading a nine-member high-level delegation. Among those who saw him off at the airport were the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Receives USSR's Petrovskiy

LD2011215490 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali today received Mr. Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Soviet deputy foreign minister and envoy of Soviet President Gorbachev. Mr. Ghazali reiterated Algeria's attachment to international legality which should be applied without restriction and without being exclusive and which consequently should be applied to the Palestinian question. The communique of the Foreign Ministry issued at the end of this meeting stresses in this context that Mr. Ghazali said there is a political link between all the issues of the area and all that is needed is to give substance to this link at the operational level.

Petrovskiy Statement

LD2011214490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid today received a message from the Soviet president which was delivered by the Soviet deputy foreign minister [Vladimir Petrovskiy], who is visiting our country in the framework of an Arab tour which has so far taken him to Tripoli, Tunis, and Rabat. The situation in the Gulf was discussed during the meeting. President Chadli Bendjedid reviewed Algeria's efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully. Regarding the situation in the occupied territories, the president stressed to the Soviet envoy the need for the international community to undertake the resolution of all the problems of the region, including the implementation of UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian people.

After his meeting with the president, the Soviet envoy made the following statement to the national press:

[Begin Petrovskiy recording, in Arabic] The meeting with the president was lengthy, we conveyed our stance and assessment of the crisis in the Arabian Gulf region. We exchanged views on ways of resolving the crisis. I would like to say with great pleasure that our views were identical regarding that question, the crisis, in the direction of seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis. In this context, the Soviet Union is strongly committed to the implementation of the international community's resolutions concerning the issue. The Soviet Union is also committed to adherence to patience regarding the finding of a peaceful solution to the crisis. Our stance vis-a-vis this issue has received complete support from the the president of the Republic. We are convinced that finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis will provide a good opportunity for finding solutions to other problems in the region, led by the core of the Middle East issue, the Palestine issue. [end recording]

Further Comments by Petrovskiy

LD2011214190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] President Gorbachev's envoy [Petrovskiy] held a news conference this evening in Algiers, which was attended by radio reporter Hocine Ghraiba, who asked the Soviet envoy whether Moscow would agree to the imposition of a military solution in the Gulf, as willed by Washington. He replied as follows:

[Begin Petrovskiy recording in Arabic] We are trying now to find a political solution to this issue. We believe that it will take a long time to achieve a settlement. We believe that there is a possibility to find a political settlement to the crisis. [end recording]

PNSD Members Defect to Liberation Front

LD2011233890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Members of the provincial bureau of the PNSD [National Party for Solidarity and Development] have withdrawn from their party today and joined the National Liberation Front. According to the PNSD Coordinator in Bechar Province, Bakkai Ghazi, the only way out of the crisis that is dragging the country down is through the Hamrouche government's policy.

Egypt

Talking Points for Mubarak-Bush Meeting Listed

JN2011144690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari]

[Text] I have learned that President Husni Mubarak is completing his file on the talks that he will have with U.S. President George Bush due to begin in Cairo on Friday [23 November] and continue over two days. I also learned that the outcome of his visits to Damascus and Surt in Libya, and his lengthy talks with Presidents al-Asad and al-Qadhdhafi there, will be contained in this file.

Therefore, President Mubarak will discuss with the U.S. President the relations between Washington on the one hand and Damascus and Tripoli on the other, with a view to improving these relations. President Mubarak will stress to President Bush the need to make the West lift the sanctions and punitive measures it has imposed on both Syria and Libya, especially considering that Syria is still viewed as a country sponsoring terrorism. Maintaining such a position means that the boycott and economic sanctions will be maintained and that aid to Syria will remain suspended.

I have also learned that the results of the Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian coordination—whose foundations were laid during the meetings in Riyadh and Latakia among Foreign Ministers Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Sa'ud al-Faysal, Farug

al-Shar' and which will be completed in Cairo on 1 December—will also figure highly in the Mubarak-Bush talks, especially concerning the following points:

—The need to make every effort to resolve the crisis peacefully;

—Convince the U.S. President to postpone the military option for three months;

—The perception of the three states as regards the security situation in the region in the wake of a resolution of the crisis either peacefully or by war;

—The need to expedite a settlement of Middle East problems led by the Palestine question in accordance with the same criteria and standards pursued in tackling the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait once the crisis is resolved. This means that international principles must be respected and that UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should be implemented to prevent a reeruption of the war and to establish a firm basis for stability;

—The establishment of ties among the region's states on the basis of good neighborliness;

—Seeing the United States and the West help the region by transferring technology to it so that the standard of living of its peoples can be raised and so the causes of social tension and disparity can be removed.

I learned that Egypt has firm principles on these topics, particularly regarding the security arrangements and stability factors. These principles are the following:

—The troops and parties participating in any security arrangements should be 100 percent Arab;

—A balanced armament system must prevail in the region. This system should not allow any regional power to impose its hegemony or control over others through military superiority, as this might prompt it to repeat the Iraqi action against Kuwait;

—All countries of the region, including Israel, should be subjected to the same standards and principles regarding the proliferation of mass destruction weapons. Such standards and principles should be binding on all.

Moreover I learned that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria want to give a chance for a political settlement of the existing conflict in a manner that would safeguard the rights of all parties, provided that the root cause of the conflict is addressed. I also learned that President Mubarak and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia are ready to extend every possible assistance to negotiations designed to achieve this objective, provided that these negotiations are conducted after an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and after the reinstatement of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

This perception also provides for making Iraq and Kuwait secure through the deployment of Arab disengagement troops to disengage Iraqis from Kuwaitis once the withdrawal is initiated. I learned that the phase following a settlement will see a democratic transformation in the Gulf states and that the current Gulf regimes have actually begun preparations for this transformation.

MENA Interviews Mubarak on Gulf Crisis

NC2011163090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the architects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait were people from outside Iraq who were motivated by their need for money and who thought they would share the booty. He added that in the upcoming days a lot of things will be revealed which we could not have imagined and that when the proper time comes, he will have a lot to say.

In an interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, to be published in the 21 November issue, President Mubarak stressed that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's calculations regarding the invasion of Kuwait were wrong, just as his calculations regarding the war with Iran were also wrong. Mubarak said that President Saddam thought that the invasion of Kuwait would pass as other crises would pass and that the world would say a few words of protest and that then matters would proceed as Saddam wanted. He would then bide his time and sit in Kuwait forever, assisted by those who thought they could arrange the international scene for him.

Anwering a question on the significance of U.S. President George Bush's upcoming visit to the region, President Mubarak said that President Bush will visit his soldiers stationed in the region. He is a president of a superpower and thus he will have much to speak about, discuss, and see.

Asked about the cohesion of the international alliance against President Saddam, who is trying to play for time, President Mubarak stressed that the current international coordination and consensus on this issue is unprecedented. He added that the issue is not one about a minor border dispute which can be settled by territorial arrangements. It instead is concerned with Saddam Husayn's having occupied an independent country which exists on the world map. If the world lets him get away with his deed, we will be facing a grave international situation in which the big will eat the small and the strong mangle the weak. This must not happen.

President Mubarak said: The international consensus about punishing Iraq for its occupation of Kuwait will not weaken. Iraq is mistaken if it believes it can buy time and play with the world's nerves.

Asked about Egypt's principled stand toward the Gulf crisis, President Mubarak said: In this crisis we have stuck to our principles. How can we allow a state to swallow another state? This is political overkill which we cannot allow to happen in an independent Arab state. Equations will change if we allow this deed to pass. We have stuck to the principles of which we are proud. Egypt has an ancient history and is not a pirate state.

Asked about the secret of the Iraqi President's obstinacy in the face of this international alliance against him,

President Mubarak said: President Saddam's problem is that he is unaware of the magnitude of this international crisis. Some of his advisers depict a situation that differs from the real one to him.

President Mubarak explained that Saddam Husayn's strength is not external [laysat kharijiyah] but is directed against the Iraqi people, who are facing terrorism, killings, and other ordeals.

President Mubarak said that if war breaks out, it will not be long as Saddam imagines. Moreover, his army has begun to feel and realize that it will enter an unequal and dishonorable battle because it has occupied another country and usurped another people.

President Mubarak added: We will remain hopeful up until the last minute that this leadership will not lead the Iraqi Army and people and their resources to a destruction which will affect other states.

Asked for his view of the periodic initiatives from the Iraqi president, including his recent one to release the hostages during a three-month period starting on Christmas day, President Mubarak said: Saddam Husayn believes that he is dealing with mindless people. The United States and Britain replied and revealed to him that the objective of his initiative is to buy time. The odd thing is that he believes that they do not realize his intentions. This is part of his fatal error. It seems that he is not in touch with and does not know about international politics, and believes that any country in the world is a mere Iraqi "village" which, if it resists, he can threaten with the binary weapon—which he also believes he can use if war erupts.

President Mubarak then said: We have exerted every possible effort to prevent this destructive war. We are clinging to even a glimmer of hope that those in Baghdad will wake up and spare the world a catastrophe. But everything now is ending in a dead end. Still, out of hope I have asked that the peaceful solutions be given two or three months. I am a military man and know the extent of the damage that this war would leave behind it. But I do not know whether the world, which is harmed by this crisis, will respond to this demand.

Regarding the call by Moroccan King Hassan II to hold an Arab summit, President Mubarak said: When this Moroccan call was made, we thought that there were some arrangements behind it or that Morocco had observed some signs of flexibility from the Iraqis. But as soon as this call was made, Iraq hastened to declare its impossible conditions, and we found that we were turning to this vicious circle and to that dead end. This is why Morocco's call came to this end and was rejected by the Arab countries which want a definite agenda limited to setting the date for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and for implementation of the Security Council and Arab League resolutions.

Replying to another question, President Mubarak expressed his belief that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait had been prepared for some time, that its file had long been on the shelf, and that there are several parties involved who were expecting to benefit from this occupation. He said: I was insisting on a speedy Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait while expressing my readiness to find a face-saving way out. But I was surprised to see that some Arab parties did not want this withdrawal and were even seeking to thwart the Arab League resolutions and the declaration of the Egyptian stand on this invasion.

On Egypt's internal issues, President Mubarak answered a question on whether some countries' writing off of Egypt's debts will positively affect the Egyptian economy's performance. He said: Our economic performance will certainly improve following this step. These debts and servicing them were in some ways unacceptable for a country like Egypt. Writing off that much of Egypt's debts will restore more confidence in the Egyptian economy and will make our commitment to service the debts less heavy than it was before. This does not mean, however, that we should become lazy.

President Mubarak stressed the need to develop the means of production and their performance, adding that we do not expect the rate of inflation to drop because the crises sweeping the world have their effects and we are part of this world. Still, the shape of our economy will be important and acceptable to the world.

Replying to a question on the upcoming elections to the People's Assembly and whether there will be no opposition as a result, President Mubarak said: The opposition is involved in the elections. There are candidates who have entered the elections as independents and not connected with the opposition parties. Even some members of the National Democratic Party have resigned and entered the elections on their own. The elections law was made according to the parties' demands. They have asked that the elections be held on an individual basis. He added: The new People's Assembly will include the opposition, and we most certainly will not silence opposing opinion.

Mubarak 'Refused' To Receive President Salih

PM1911121490 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Nov 90 p 11

[Unattributed report: "'Ali 'Abdallah Salih Asks To Visit Egypt But Mubarak Turns Him Down"]

[Excerpt] AL-MAJALLAH has learned from informed political sources in Cairo that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last week asked to visit Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on specific issues linked to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the cool relations between Yemen and Egypt resulting from Yemen's support for Iraq. The Yemeni president's request was rejected on the pretext that President Mubarak was preoccupied with Egyptian internal affairs. The Egyptian sources maintain, however, that the main reason why the request was rejected was that President Mubarak did not wish to meet with any of the Arab

Cooperation Council heads of state for the time being, particularly since the escalation of their media attacks and statements against the Egyptian leadership and people and the fact that President Mubarak was upset by the news of ill-treatment of Egyptians in Yemen.

Another responsible Egyptian source, who wished to remain anonymous, has confirmed to AL-MAJALLAH that in the past few days Egypt refused to receive a Yemeni envoy to discuss the crisis in bilateral relations following the media campaign against Egypt. The source said that Yemen was intensifying its media campaign because of the principled stands taken by Egypt and Saudi Arabia on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. He added that Egypt had previously agreed to receive Yemeni presidential envoy Rashid Bin-Thabit, but the media attacks on Egypt have not stopped. The source revealed that the Yemeni president telephoned President Mubarak explaining the need to respect the different views.

The source denied any Egyptian mediation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia had not initiated a campaign against Yemen and that the Yemeni president could himself contact the Saudi brothers directly. [passage omitted]

Reportage Outlines Events Preceding Elections

Wafd Members Expelled Over Boycott

PM0911120190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
4 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Expulsion of 32 Wafd Party Members for Violating Higher Committee's Decision To Boycott Elections"]

[Excerpt] Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din yesterday issued a decision expelling the party members who had submitted nomination papers for the people's assembly elections. The decision affects 32 members who violated the party's higher committee decision on boycotting the elections. [passage omitted]

Emergency Law Discussed

JN2011212590 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
7 Nov 90 p 4

[Report by Hanan Hammad]

[Text] For the third time, the elections for the People's Assembly are being held under the emergency law as well as the sword laid against the opposition to prevent its candidates from reaching the Assembly. In accordance with the provisions of the emergency law, a candidate or his representative could be arrested and opposition meetings and conferences could be considered a violation of law.

In the past two experiments, the government proved that it does not hesitate to use these powers to give its candidates the opportunity to form a bloc in the Assembly of those who always give their approval.

But under the current internal and foreign circumstances, will the government resort to such a suspect law in the same old way? How will the opposition candidates face this?

Khalid Muhyi-al-din, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Party [NPUP] and candidate for the Kafr Shukr electoral district, said everything is possible in political life. Therefore, the government's use of the emergency law to strike at the opposition candidates, or not using it at all, are both possible and expected.

However, the candidate's popularity and ability to protect himself and representative from the power of the emergency law will be an obstacle to these practices. But, not every candidate enjoys this popularity throughout his electoral district. Therefore, the candidate must select strong representatives and reserves in all committees.

The NPUP secretary general does not expect the government to use the emergency powers in the next elections. This anticipation is supported by the wave of democracy prevailing in the world, pressuring the Egyptian Government to hold more fair elections, as well as by the fact that not all the opposition is waging the election campaign. Consequently, if the government wants to use it, it will do so in a limited way in light of the limited number of the opposition candidates. Otherwise, it will use the emergency law just for the purpose of using it. However, this does not exclude the opposite possibility—that is, the government will come under pressure from the candidates of the National Democratic Party [NDP] to intervene in their interest.

Kamal Kirah, the Egyptian Green Party's candidate, agrees with this opinion. Kirah does not expect the Government to use the emergency powers. He believes the government will remain neutral to a large extent to prove to opposition members who will boycott the elections that it will keep its word to hold fair elections. However, if the government uses the emergency law, the candidate will have no other choice but to resort to the judiciary in light of the great confidence in its men, particularly if the problems are dealt with quickly in the legal committees formed in the electoral districts and whose provisions have the power of a court judgment.

'Alawi Hafiz, independent candidate for the al-Darb al-Ahmar electoral district, also does not expect the government to use the emergency law in the next elections, but his reasons are different. He believes that the experiment of democracy is expanding and acquiring its features through practice. Also, the political atmosphere in Egypt after the Gulf crisis, and Egypt's place in the spotlight of the world because of the debts and the IMF negotiations represent a safety valve because the government wants to appear as a democratic one, not a government that encourages violence and uses the emergency law.

Using the emergency powers such as arrests and detentions would only be carried out against a candidate who is weak in his district and who does not enjoy popularity

or the support of a clan. 'Alawi Hafiz denied that some opposition parties' boycott of elections would lead toward more fairness.

Ahmad Mujahid [not further identified] takes the contrary view; he believes that the authorities will use repressive measures in the next elections, as it did in previous elections, whether it will use the emergency law or not. The government resorts to the practice of holding candidates and their representatives in custody and changing the results in its favor by forging the interpretation of the law, as happened in the previous Assembly by preventing 39 deputies from entering the Assembly.

Mujahid said that the only way open to the opposition in the next elections was to expose any government violations, and consequently the government's credit would drop and the popularity of the opposition would increase. The government will also fear the people's explosion and collision with them if the candidate has extensive popularity.

Meanwhile Abu-al-'Izz al-Hariri, candidate of the NPUP for the Karmus electoral district in Alexandria, believes that the state of emergency will continue because they are practices every day and because it is a state that limits the movement of the NPUP because of its economic crisis.

The signs and smell of the emergency law began to appear in choosing the NDP candidates. They are financially powerful and can put pressure on the voters in terms of their livelihood.

Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id, chairman of the NPUP elections committee, called for lifting the state of emergency during the election period. He also called on the government frankly to pledge not to use the emergency powers regarding the election process because it is difficult to hold neutral elections under the emergency law.

Party Members Pose as Independents

JN2011214890 Cario AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Nov 90 p 7

[Editorial entitled "The 'Hide and Seek' Game"]

[Text] Things are mixed up among the election candidates. Most of the parties are wearing the garments of independents, and thus competing with those who are actually standing as independents.

The slogans gave many clues as to the true affiliation of some of the "independent" candidates. For instance, some adopt the principles of the al-Wafd Party, and others write "we enjoy the support of the Islamists." The aim is to inform voters of the true identity of the candidates.

By this trick all parties, even those who said they will boycott the elections, have joined the election battle. This contradiction was unjustified. The parties should either be serious, adhere to the rules of the game, or actually boycott the elections and take disciplinary measures against members who violate the boycott decision and stand in the elections, considering them as defectors, unless they have reconsidered their position and decided to join the battle. But in the latter case they should have ordered their candidates to announce their true identity and refrain from concealing themselves as independents, or else they would be punished. This did not happen. Indeed, there is some kind of "collusion" between the parties and their "independent" candidates. Or at least there is silence from the parties, and no measures are taken against these "independents." The result is that these candidates stand in the elections as independents while retaining their party affiliation. Because the elections will be on an individual basis, the voter in the constituency can identify the candidate—if he is known, that is if he is an efficient member of some party. The voter will realize this and his decision to elect the candidate or not will depend on his knowledge of his background. If the candidate is not known, he needs to give voters some hints about his affiliation—hints like the ones mentioned above. In both cases the matter is exposed to the voter. He knows the candidate's background and his party affiliation although he announces that he is independent. The voter's position will be determined on the basis of this knowledge, not on the basis of the alleged independence.

Why, then, is this concealment taking place when the issue is known to all parties to the election game whether the government, an authority, a rival party, or the electorate?

Ministers 'Boycott' Elections

JN2011215590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Nov 90 p 14

[Report by Mustafa Amin under "Idea!" column]

[Text] It is not true that only the majority of the opposition parties have boycotted the elections, but rather that the majority of ministers have also joined this boycott. No more than seven ministers have nominated themselves, although there are 33 ministers if we exclude Dr. Zakariyah 'Azmi, director of the president's office, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal al-Din.

It is an ancient legislative tradition for all ministers, with no exception, to participate in the election campaign which is a reflection of the nation's confidence in the government and an indication of the people's support for the government's policy.

All ministers in the government of Sa'd Zaghlul [Egyptian nationalist] were either deputies or members of the Senate. Not a single one was appointed. One of Sa'd Zaghlul's sayings was that the minister who has no constituency has no place in the cabinet.

In England, the minister who loses in the election is dismissed from the cabinet. The fact that the majority of ministers have refused to nominate themselves means

that they consider themselves as employees, not ministers, and that they announce that they neither have anything to do with politics, nor have an opinion. This weakens legislative life.

Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali were expected to nominate themselves in the elections to represent the country's foreign policy. Finance Minister Dr. al-Razzaz was also expected to nominate himself as a referendum on the people's opinion on the country's finance policy.

In fact 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister himself, should have also nominated himself. Since elections are going to be honest and impartial, what do the ministers fear, especially since the opposition has cleared the way for them and they will only face a number of independents who can do nothing?

Since the elections will be of individuals, the government ought to have nominated all ministers in order to know the people's opinion of its ministers, their popularity, and whether they have, in the people's opinion, carried out their tasks.

In the United States, ministers do not enter the elections because they are secretaries of the President. He can appoint and dismiss them whenever and however he chooses.

In France, all ministers without exception enter the election campaign. This is the case in England, Italy, and even in Greece!

It is strange that, out of the three Coptic ministers in the cabinet, not even one nominated himself in the elections, but rather they boycotted the election campaign just as the opposition did!

Challenges to Elections Examined

PM2111120690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Administrative Court Verdicts on Appeals for Suspension of Elections and Unconstitutionality of Emergency Law To Be Announced Tuesday"]

[Text] The Administrative Justice Court will announce Tuesday its ruling on the following three cases:

A call for suspension of the imminent People's Assembly elections on grounds of violation of the election law; distribution of constituencies; and violation of Articles eight, 40, and 88 of the constitution. The case was filed by Lawyer Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur.

The court will also announce its verdict in the case questioning the constitutionality of the 1958 emergency law and presidential decree number 1 declaring the state of emergency. The court will also rule on the appeal submitted by Lawyer Dr. Shawqi al-Sayyid against Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports and National Democratic Party candidate for al-Azbakiyah constituency, claiming that Jamal-al-Din's nomination was unconstitutional.

The court will also examine the case filed by Lawyer Kamal Khalid calling for the suspension of the People's Assembly elections scheduled for 29 November on the grounds of discrepancies in the constituencies distribution law, claiming that the law grossly violates the principles of equality and equal opportunities guaranteed under the constitution. Kamal Khalid also claims that the electoral lists in some constituencies are invalid because they ignore the electoral register and keep names of dead people on the lists. The appeal cites major discrepancies in the electoral lists and violations in the definition of constituencies, as in the case of Dumyat. Counselor Nabil As'ad will preside over the court session.

Officials Call Boycott 'Mistake'

JN2011122590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Former Information Minister Muhammad Fa'iq has said that the upcoming People's Assembly elections will be free and honest. This is evident by the popular conferences held and also in that candidates are given equal opportunities to launch their election campaigns, he added. He went on to say that the opposition made a mistake when it decided to boycott the elections, because participation would help consolidate democracy through the election of a powerful People's Assembly.

Former War Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Fawzi, has said that parties made a mistake by deciding not to run for the elections because passivity does not serve the homeland at the current phase.

Fa'iq and Fawzi made these statements during an election meeting in the village of al-Rawdah in the Fariskur subdistrict in support of Diya'-al-Din Dawud.

Exposure of Dissidents Threatened

PM2111124490 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Zakariya Fikri: "Wali Threatens To Open Dissidents' Files And Declares Interior Ministry's Support for Government Candidates"]

[Text] Alexandria—National Democratic Party [NDP] Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali has threatened to open the files of the dissident candidates and to expel them from local councils if they continue to challenge the party's candidates and to incite the public against them. Dr. Yusuf Wali assured NDP candidates in Alexandria of the support for them on the part of all government bodies including the Interior Ministry.

The party candidates have expressed fears of the influence of some dissident candidates and of a lack of public interest in them in most constituencies and spoke of empty election pavilions.

Some independent candidates in Alexandria have received threats that they or members of their families could be arrested.

2,730 Candidates To Run

NC2011082790 Cairo MENA in English 2232 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 19 (MENA)—A total of 2,730 candidates will run for general elections slated for November 29 to elect a new People's Assembly (parliament).

According to Major-General Ahmad Fu'ad 'Ata, assistant interior minister, nearly 16 million ballots will be printed in three days by state-run presses and distributed among constituencies in preparation for election day.

Student Protests Escalate as Violence Increases

PM2011123990 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Nov 90 pp 1-2

[Report by Majdi Hilmi, Zakariyya Fikri, and Muhammad Hajras: "Student Demonstrations at Alexandria, al-Zaqaziq, and al-Azhar Universities"]

[Excerpts] Student demonstrations yesterday broke out at most Egyptian universities in protest against the arrest and dismissal of a large number of students, as well as most faculties' refusal to accept nominations for student unions in implementation of instructions from above. Furthermore, 3,500 students have been expelled from university housing areas in preparation for receiving participants in the African sports tournament to be held next year! Demonstrations broke out at al-Azhar, Alexandria, and al-Zaqaziq Universities and the Veterinary Faculty in Idfina. For the 10th successive day Al-Azhar University yesterday witnessed huge demonstrations in protest at the dismissal of most student leaders, the arrest of a large number of students, and the expulsion of 3,500 students from university housing areas on the pretext of preparing for the African tournament. Students staged a demonstration in front of the university administration building in the morning, denouncing the university administration and the policy of the ruling National [Democratic] Party. Scores of Central Security trucks and karate teams surrounded the university and the main gates, and secret police and State Security officers spread out through the university faculties. [passage omitted]

Unrest escalated at Alexandria University after most faculties refused to accept nomination applications from a large number of students in implementation of instructions from above. [passage omitted]

Al-Zaqaziq University students yesterday staged a demonstration in protest against the assault on a group of students inside the university campus by an officer and three policemen. A student lost an eye and some others sustained severe injuries as a result of the student union elections. Demonstrations broke out to protest against the assault on the students. The security organs banned the nomination of oppositionist students. Students emphasized that the security organs had embarked on provocative actions. Female students staged a demonstration to protest against the increase in university housing fees.

Kuwaiti Official Meets With Mubarak, Comments

NC2011143190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs. Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Kandari also attended the meeting. After the meeting, al-'Awadi stated that he conveyed a special message to President Mubarak from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah. The message deals with the current situation; developments in Arab issues, particularly the Gulf issue; and other topics.

Dr. al-'Awadi said that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the international situation and the military concentrations aimed at reaching a decisive resolution to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Asked whether the Kuwait amir has asked President Mubarak to convey a message to U.S. President Bush during his upcoming visit to Cairo, al-'Awadi said: At such meetings we are concerned about coordination of views and positions. He said: I would like to stress that there is clear coordination among Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the countries of the region. He said: We believe that our having a unified stand and view is important for our cause, particulary during these critical days and preparations for a decision by the international community.

On the role of the Kuwaiti resistance, al-'Awadi said: As you know, the Iraqi regime relies on repression, destruction, and indiscriminate killing. He said that despite their small number, the Kuwaiti people have succeeded in standing up to the aggression. He pointed out that merely by remaining in their country, Kuwaiti citizens are demonstrating their resistance because they are daily subjected to displacement, looting, and rape. He said that the Kuwaiti people in Kuwait have remained steadfast in the face of a major barbarian offensive and a repugnant occupation.

Egypt, Czechoslovakia Demand Iraqi Withdrawal

NC1711212190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Egypt and Czechoslovakia have declared their rejection of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and

demanded an immediate unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government.

The two sides agreed on the need for speeding up the solution of Middle East problems, foremost being the Palestinian issue by means of convening the international peace conference. They also stressed the importance of removing the all-out destructive weapons from the Middle East region and for creating a new security order that would prevent the future recurrence of the regrettable incidents that occurred in the Gulf region.

The two countries agreed on the need for consolidating and coordinating their stands on the international level and for bolstering and promoting their bilateral relations in various domains, particularly in the economic and trade spheres.

This was announced by the Czechoslovak ambassador in Cairo following a round of talks between Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and the Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister.

Saddam's 'Naive Thinking' Worsens Gulf Crisis

JN2011140290 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Nov 90 p 5

[Editorial entitled "Correcting a Mistake With Graver Mistakes"]

[Text] One of the things that confirm the mental retardation controlling Saddam Husayn's thinking and which pushes him deeper into the mistake he committed at the very beginning is that he is trying to rectify one mistake by making a more serious one. After he deviously invaded Kuwait, his true intentions were revealed when he massed the larger part of his troops on the Saudi Arabian border and when world forces rushed to mass their armies and fleets in the Gulf region to protect a state and its oil resources from further stupidity which the Iraqi dictator might commit.

Saddam believed he could protect himself and his country by holding hostage those foreign nationals who used to work in Iraq. In this way, he committed an even graver error than all his previous errors. These nationals are citizens of many countries, big and small, and these countries are concerned about protecting and taking care of their nationals wherever they may be. The international community believes that the hostage game will not go on for long because it is a dangerous adventure and because the world will never forgive whoever created it; neither will it allow him to win it, otherwise it would set an international precedent which another crazy leader elsewhere might imitate.

The latest idea the thief of Baghdad's genius has come up with is to announce his readiness to release all foreign nationals held in Iraq and Kuwait if he receives a written pledge from the French and Soviet presidents to solve the Gulf crisis without a war. This is just another stand which once again confirms the mentality the world is dealing with in its attempts to avert the eruption of a war whose repercussions cannot be predicted and whose damages cannot be contained within a narrow framework. Saddam Husayn believes that the commitment of Paris and Moscow not to participate in a war against him is enough to end the crisis which he started by invading Kuwait, restore a relaxed atmosphere, and remove the tensions which his crime created. This is very naive thinking arising from a total lack of intelligence. If we assume, just for the sake of argument—and this is an impossible assumption—that Presidents Mitterrand and Gorbachev pledge to do what the Iraqi dictator is demanding, would this mean that the rest of the nations—imarily the United States, the European Community, and the countries that have sent fighters to the region—will soon commit themselves to this pledge also?

How can one promise a leader who started the aggression not to fight him if he continues to hold on to his victim which he regularly continues to rob. Even he himself refuses to talk about the only solution which could lead to peace: to withdraw his troops from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government.

Saddam Husayn is merely biding his time and playing with nerves. This cannot go on for long.

Cooperation Minister Returns From Syrian Visit

NC1611082290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, returned to Cairo early this morning after a visit to Syria that lasted for several days. During his visit Makramallah chaired Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Syrian preparatory joint committee. These committee meetings preceded the meetings of the higher joint committee that will be held in Cairo next week under the chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries.

Representatives from the ministries of petroleum, industry, transport, agriculture, health, and information were part of the Egyptian delegation.

Minister Returns, Comments on Paris Club Talks

NC1811075090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0057 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, returned this evening to Cairo from Paris where he took part in the Paris Club meetings. The meetings focused on possible means of lessening the burden of Egyptian debts.

In an arrival statement, Dr. 'Ubayd said that all the Paris Club countries without exception have voiced support

for Egypt and underlined the need to lessen the burden of Egypt's debts in order to promote development in Egypt.

These countries, Dr. 'Ubayd said, have agreed to set up a date not later than the end of January to examine the various forms through which the burden of Egypt's debts can be relieved.

Dr. 'Ubayd said that as soon as technical discussions are completed, negotiations between Egypt and the creditor countries will start. Dr. 'Ubayd noted that next year Egypt's debts will be reduced and that early next year a program of economic reforms will be formulated in cooperation with the IMF.

Envoy Reports Situation in Occupied Territories

NC1911061890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni left Cairo for Tel Aviv this evening after a one-day visit.

In a predeparture statement, Ambassador Basyuni said that he presented a report to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the situation in the occupied territories and in Israel in light of the recent events.

Ghali Returns From Tour of Europe, Asia

NC1911180290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this afternoon after a tour lasting several days. He visited Italy, India, Japan, and China. [passage omitted]

Egyptian, Syrian, Saudi Foreign Ministers To Meet

NC1911135490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—A Foreign Ministry source has stated that the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia will meet in Cairo at the beginning of December.

The source said that the three ministers will continue their previous talks held in Jeddah and Damascus. They will also discuss the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Shamir's Statement on Territories Criticized

NC2111094790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has vehemently criticized Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's recent statements on the Israeli need to cling to the occupied Arab territories. The paper pointed out that the statements emphasize that the Israeli Government has decided to continue to exploit the disintegration and divisive state that has resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Israel aims to turn the dreams and plans of the founders of the Jewish state and the leaders of the Zionist Movement into a reality, and consequently realize the dream of a Greater Israel.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR added that Shamir's statements have unequivocally revealed that he has decided to act overtly and not to miss the golden opportunity that Saddam Husayn, intentionally or not, bestowed on him. Shamir has audaciously declared the true designs that govern Tel Aviv's policy and to overtly talk about the need to retain Israel's land from the sea to India [as received].

AL-AKHBAR maintained that Shamir's statements, which were characterized with his usual obstinacy and intransigence, aim to drive the last nail in the coffin of any attempt to settle the Palestinian problem. It would be pointless to hold any negotiations with a government whose leader has declared that it will not withdraw from any Arab territory under its occupation. The Israeli prime minister's statements frankly imply the government's determination to annex other Arab territories.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR said that if Shamir saw in the Gulf crisis a chance to speak publicly and impudently about his government's designs, he should realize that this crisis will eventually end, and then the Arab world will emerge stronger and more determined to liberate the occupied territories.

Cairo-Damascus Overland Route Opens 17 Nov

NC1711161990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, has praised the successful experiment of the overland transport service between Egypt and Syria via Jordan. He said the service first reached from Damascus to Cairo today.

Commenting on the occasion, Eng. Mutawalli said that the new overland route between Egypt and Syria serves to bolster the close cooperation between the two countries. He added that the necessary measures are being taken to operate a maritime line between Alexandria and Lattakia.

In his statement, Eng. Mutawalli noted that the cooperation between Egypt and Syria will be further promoted in future in transport, railroads, telephone communications, and maritime transport.

Ministers Note Road, Trade Links With Libya

NC1811085590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0718 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli—minister of transport, communications, and

maritime transport—said that the actual preparations to link the Egyptian city al-Sallum with the Libyan city Tubruq by rail have begun.

Minister Mutawalli, who was among the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak on his recent visit to Libya, said that the rail line is part of the plan to link Egypt and Morocco by rail service for passengers as well as freight.

In a statement published today in AL-AHRAM, Minister Muwatalli said that work on the Marsa Matruh-al-Sallum road will be completed by the end of this year. The 240-km road will be widened from six to 10.5 meters at a cost of 30 million pounds, thus providing better service to tourism-related development as well as to overland traffic to Libya.

Sulayman Mutallai also said that five kilometers of two-lane road have been built between al-Sallum and Musa'id on the Libyan-Egyptian border. Work is currently underway, he noted, on a two-lane, five-km long bridge near Marsa Matruh. The total cost of completing the two-lane road is 50 million pounds, he said.

Meanwhile, Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab has told AL-AHRAM that Egypt and Libya are currently preparing to sign an equal trade agreement for the exchange of a total of $100 million of industrial goods. He noted that, as a member of President Mubarak's delegation in Libya, he held talks concerning the implementation of such a deal and the goods that both countries can export to each other.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Wahhab said that Libyan exports to Egypt are expected to include some surplus iron and steel products, as well as several of the chemical industries' products. Egyptian exports to Libya will include washing machines, automobiles, furniture, and refrigerators. The industry minister noted that financial arrangements are being made to allow for commercial and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Imam Denounces Attack Against Indian Mosques

NC1811192890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, grand imam of al-Azhar, affirmed today that the increasing violence against some mosques in India portends a threat to peace and stability in India and the entire East.

In a statement issued today on the attack against some mosques in India, the al-Azhar imam said this violence delays cultural progress and advancement; hinders development in India; and threatens to spread this abominable fanaticism to the followers of the other religions, not only in India but also in the neighboring countries as well, thus increasing tension among their peoples.

The statement noted that the reports on acts of violence to destroy the historical Babri Mosque in the town of Ayodhya in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh in order to set up a Hindu temple in its place constitute a blatant violation of the human rights ensured by all international charters.

The al-Azhar imam expressed his denunciation of the Hindu attack against the (?Babri) Mosque in India and called on all Indians to preserve places of worship. He expressed his thanks to the Indian Government for its firm stand on the attacks against this mosques and others and against Muslims.

He called on the Islamic governments to work with the new Indian Government to ensure that such aggression does not recur, with respect to the rights of the Muslim Indians. He appealed to wealthy Muslims worldwide to contribute to repairing the damage done to this and other mosques in India.

Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Departs

NC1811092090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0812 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Filon Wagner [name as received] left Cairo today following a visit of several days to Egypt. During the visit, Wagner held talks with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, concerning the developments of the Gulf situation as well as bilateral relations.

Envoy Views 'Distorted' Algerian Statement

NC1911162990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Abdelhamid Adjali, Algerian ambassador in Cairo, has denied news agency reports citing distorted statements by his country's foreign minister. He said he had received the text of the statements carried by a foreign news agency and could not find anything in them against Egypt or its role in the region.

The Algerian ambassador expressed his extreme regret over the failure to seek accuracy in such matters and gave a warning to those who are trying to fish in the murky waters in order to undermine Algerian-Egyptian relations which he described as excellent both on the official and popular levels.

Italian Foreign Undersecretary Arrives for Visit

NC2011083190 Cairo MENA in English 2028 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 19 (MENA)—The Italian foreign undersecretary arrived here tonight on a few days' visit.

The Italian official was received at the airport by assistant foreign minister, Ambassador Sami Wahbah, and the Italian ambassador in Cairo.

Cairo To Host Somali Reconciliation Talks

NC2011141590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—It has been decided to hold a roundtable on national reconciliation in Somalia on 12 December in Cairo. Egypt, Italy, Somalia, and five Somali opposition movements will participate.

This was stated by Mario Rafaelli [name as received], member of the Italian Parliament's foreign affairs committee and the Italian Government's representative in the mediation efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia, following his meeting today with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state foreign affairs.

The Italian official's talks in Cairo are part of Egypt's intensive diplomatic efforts to promote security and security in the Horn of Africa.

Jihad 'Fugitive Terrorist' Apprehended in Mallawi

JN1611072390 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Nov 90 p 10

[Excerpt] In one of the intensive combing operations taking place in all governorates throughout Egypt in search of the remaining members of extremist terrorist groups, security forces have managed to apprehend Diya'-al-Din Dawud Khalaf, a suspect in the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, and his companions, whom security forces have been looking for. The fugitive terrorist, Diya'-al-Din Dawud Khalaf, was arrested in an apartment being used as a hideout for the [Jihad] organization members in the city of Mallawi.

Three other members of the Jihad organization—Tariq Hasan Sabiq, 'Adil Mustafa Raslan, and 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Abdallah—were arrested with the fugitive suspect in the same apartment in Mallawi. They offered no resistance, and no weapons or explosives were found in the apartment. [passage omitted]

Consequences of Kahana Assassination Considered

NC1011071490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Report from the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM comments on the assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahana. The paper says that although Meir Kahana was a notorious character, even to Jews inside and outside Israel, no one would have wanted him to be killed amid the current atmosphere of heightened tension in Israeli-Palestinian relations inside and outside the occupied territories.

The paper says that Kahana himself was less afraid of being assassinated by Arabs than by Jews, for he knew well that his policies calling for the expulsion of Arabs from the occupied territories and for their extermination were considered objectionable even by the Jews themselves.

The paper says that the timing of Kahana's assassination raises many questions, as there had been no major change in his already extremist positions. AL-AHRAM says that the assassination is possibly the action of one individual rather than an organization, but that its timing may lead to incalculable and dangerous consequences.

Kahana, the paper says, was hardly a popular figure with a major following, but his assassination may lead to an unnecessary trail of violent actions and further turbulence that could make the occupied territories, and possibly other areas, run with blood, as some have warned. Turning an individual incident into an episode of collective and awsome proportions is a prospect against which all parties should be warned.

Al-Qadhdhafi Supports Arab League Move to Cairo

NC1511193590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, has reiterated Libya's commitment to the decision to return the Arab League [AL] to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. He also reiterated his rejection of any attempt to depart from that decision or to violate the AL Charter, which stipulates that Cairo be the permanent AL headquarters.

MENA has also learned that Col. al-Qadhdhafi believes that the AL secretary general must be Egyptian, as has been the practice since the AL was established and until it was temporarily moved to Tunis.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi visited Libya the day before yesterday. He carried a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, requesting Col. al-Qadhdhafi to support the Iraqi stand on the transfer of the AL headquarters. Iraq demands that the AL remain in Tunis and not be transferred to Cairo.

MENA has learned that Col. al-Qadhdhafi was careful to let Sa'dun Hammadi depart Libya before President Mubarak's arrival and after the Libyan stand on the matter had been clearly defined.

Fatah Official Discusses Independence, Peace

NC1511205090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Fatah Representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah described the Palestinian state's declaration of independence as a strategic turning point in the course of the Palestinian people's cause. He said

the declaration embodies international legitimacy and the natural historical right of the Palestinian people to their soil and homeland.

In a statement today, the Palestinian official said that while celebrating their second independence anniversary, the Palestinian masses reiterate their full adherence to the 1988 Palestinian peace initiative. The Palestinian masses emphasize that Israeli terrorism and repression will not dissuade the Palestinian people from upholding their initiative and continuing their struggle to realize the initiative.

Meanwhile, Usamah Sharab, the official in charge of the Palestinian information office in Cairo, pointed out that the declaration of independence represents the firstborn child of the intifadah which proved to the entire world that the Palestinian people are determined to attain their right for freedom and independence. Sharab noted that the recognition of the Palestinian state by well over 110 countries confirms the international community's resolve to establish international legitimacy.

Sidqi Discusses Budget Deficit, Productivity

NC1511215890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has declared that the government managed to reduce the deficit in the state's general budget from 22.5 percent of the gross domestic product in 1986 to seven percent in 1990.

In an address here today marking Production Day, Dr. Sidqi stressed that this reduction is the result of the state's policy of boosting revenues and cutting spending. The prime minister emphasized that increasing productivity and improving the quality of products are the key solutions to all of Egypt's problems and added that the only way out of Egypt's problems is through increased productivity.

He pointed out that the overpopulation problem, which persists despite the ongoing efforts to address it through birth control or improving living standards, can be tackled only by increasing productivity. He added that the only solution in the medium and long run is to increase production, upgrade living standards, and increase exports.

Dr. Sidqi noted that the government is facing two fundamental problems, the deficit in the balance of payments and the deficit in the state's general budget, and that there is no solution to either in the medium or long term except through increasing exports. He noted that the Egyptian economy sustained some losses as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait which led to reduction in tourism revenues as well as in remittances. He stressed the need for self-reliance and thanked the countries that wrote off Egypt's debts to them.

He noted that the reforms that the government is planning to introduce will concentrate on streamlining the deficits in the balance of payments and in the state's general budget. He stressed that improving and upgrading the state's services in the fields of education, health, housing, and communications cannot be attained without more revenues which can be earned only through increased productivity. [passage omitted]

Agreement With IMF To Be Signed in January

NC1711082290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Report from the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM reports that the Egyptian economic delegation's meetings in Paris with the representatives of the IMF, the World Bank, and the Paris Club have had positive results. An agreement between Egypt and the IMF is expected to be signed in January. Following the agreement a meeting will be held at the Paris Club to start rescheduling the Egyptian debts, for the first time giving Egypt a number of options.

World Bank To Offer Additional Loans

NC1711211890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, met today with World Bank Executive Director Shubra [al-Khayma] who is currently visiting Egypt. During the meeting they discussed the future relations between Egypt and the Bank, particularly those pertaining to the Bank's upcoming loans to Egypt. It is worth noting that the bank has recently decided to make additional loans to the states harmed by the Gulf crisis.

The bank has indeed agreed to make an initial loan of $300 million to Egypt. The first installment of this loan will be paid when the final agreement on the letter of intent between Egypt and the World Bank has been signed.

Egypt is expected to receive $900 million from the World Bank during the next three years to be used for financing a number of agricultural and industrial projects.

Grant, Loan Agreements Signed With Germany

NC1911160790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Today Egypt and Germany signed two agreements. According to the first agreement, Egypt will get 200 million Deutsche marks in the form of a nonrefundable grant to finance the commodities import program. This is part of German aid to Egypt. The second agreement totals 235 million Deutsche marks as an easy credit loan, of which 90 million marks will be a nonrefundable grant. [passage omitted]

Suez Canal Transit Tolls To Be Maintained

NC1911102690 Cairo MENA in English 0957 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Ismailia, Nov. 19 (MENA)—The Suez Canal Authority [SCA] will maintain for next year the same transit tolls levied this year, with an increase commensurate with the international inflation rate expected for 1991, SCA Chairman 'Izzat 'Adil announced today.

He told a press conference held at the authority's research centre that the percentage of this increase in the tolls will be six percent for all vessels, excepting those in ballast where the rate will be four percent. The application of this inflation indexed tolls will start as of midnight December 31, Engineer 'Adil said.

Al-Jihad Supporters Stab Security Troops in Qina

PM1611155590 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by 'Abdallah Muhammad: "Two Soldiers Stabbed With Penknives in Qina"]

[Text] Qina—Two students from Qina Mechanics Secondary School yesterday stabbed two recruits with penknives and then fled. Major General Samir al-Bashlawi, chief of Qina security, received a report form Lieutenant Muhsin al-Hadidi that soldiers Muhammad Ahmad Mahmud and Rif'at Muhammad Ahmad from the Qina security forces had been stabbed by students Khalid Khallaf Husayn and Muhammad 'Izz Muhammad Taha, both affiliated with the extremist al-Jihad Organization. The report said that a force headed for the Mechanics Secondary School to follow up a report about a clash between students from the school and three Industrial Institute students following the former's harassment of the institute's female students. Lt. Muhsin al-Hadidi was surprised to discover during his presence in the headmaster's office that two soldiers had been stabbed.

Transmissions Via Arabsat To Begin 1 Dec

NC2111090090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2337 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—The regular transmission of programs on the Egyptian international wideband channel via Arabsat will begin on 1 December, according to Engineer Fathi al-Bayyumi, trustee chairman of the Radio and Television Union. He said that experimental transmission on this channel, which began on 1 November, will continue through the end of the month.

Eng. al-Bayymi noted that the Egyptian television's channel one programs will be transmitted on this channel after some domestic programs have been eliminated. He said that some of the television's channel two items, especially newscasts in English and French, will be introduced into these programs.

He added that transmissions on this space channel will be beamed to Africa, East Asia, and some south European states. He explained that one of the objectives of transmitting on this channel is to provide the Egyptian Armed Forces abroad with Egyptian television programs so that they may follow Egyptian events and establish a permanent link between them and their homeland.

Eng. Fathi al-Bayyumi noted that one of the most important objectives of this channel's transmission is to ensure that Egyptian programs reach the Arab decision-makers who wish to follow Egypt's stand on various issues. It is also to provide Egyptian television to the Egyptian and Arab communities in Africa, Asia, and Europe, as well as to the Islamic communities in these states who are interested in seeing Egyptian television, especially the programs that are broadcast during the holy month of Ramadan.

The al-Ma'adi ground satellite station that links Egyptian television to Arabsat was opened in early November. The construction of this station cost 12 million pounds, which was donated by Saudi Arabia. The annual rent for this wideband channel is $2 million.

Libya

JANA Denies Accusations of Violating Embargo

LD2011151190 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, al-Harth [November] 20, Jamahiriyah News Agency—REUTER has quoted the French newspaper LE MONDE to say that there is a possibility that great Al-Jamahiriyah has been marketing Iraqi oil. Despite the obvious untruth of this piece of news the causes of which cannot be concealed from us, great Al-Jamahiriyah dislaims it categorically.

[Words indistinct] see is both senseless and illogical. Such a piece of news to say about the possibility of marketing of Iraqi oil by great Al-Jamahiriyah contradicts the following facts which, we believe, both LE MONDE and REUTER know quite well.

First: Libya is not bounded by Iraq.

Secondly: Iraq is subjected to the biggest naval blockade operation, in which western and eastern countries are participating.

Thirdly: The Iraq oil seaports are closed. So are oil-pipes across Saudi Arabia.

How can it possible for Libyan tankers to carry Iraqi oil and market it? Such an eventuality can only hold through making a fanciful assumption, i.e. when the naval fleets of the West and East are deep asleep seeing tankers going to and fro in front of their eyes. Or still such an eventuality can hold true of the Libyan tankers are covered with invisibility caps that cannot be discovered by these fleets. This the world should come to realise.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Issues Statement on Chad

LD2011171990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1400 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Nov, (JANA)—The People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued a press statement on the Great Jamahiriyah's stand on current events in Chad. Following is the text of the statement:

Since the renewal of tribal conflicts in Chad on 10 November 1990, statements have been issued by conflicting Chadian parties and world news agencies have reported the battles raging there. Although what is going on is a Chadian concern and a link in the chain of the civil war, the African countries in general and Chad's neighboring countries in particular are bound to be concerned with the instability in the region resulting from the absence of favorable conditions to achieve peace in that country.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation does not intend by releasing this statement to respond to any statements or announcements implicating the Great Jamahiriyah one way or another to accomplish internal or private purposes, but to make clear the firm stand of the Great Jamahiriyah on the current ongoing conflict between the Chadian brothers. Therefore, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, while reaffirming that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has no connection with what is going on inside Chad, is recalling the keen interest of the Great Jamahiriyah and its efforts to establish peace and security in the region. Proceeding from this keen interest the Great Jamahiriyah has done the following:

1. Participated effectively in the meetings held by the special committee charged by the OAU to follow up the relations between Libya and Chad, begining with its first meeting held in Lusaka on 23 September 1987 and its many other meetings held during 1988 and 1989 in Libreville.

2. The Great Jamahiriyah created every condition conducive to the growth of relations between the two countries. It has abided by the ceasefire decision since 11 September 1987 in response to an appeal from the OAU chairman on 7 September 1987.

3. The Great Jamahiriyah has cooperated with the African heads of state and has supported their peaceful efforts.

4. The announcement by the great leader of the al-Fatih revolution of a peace initiative on 25 May 1988 to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the OAU.

And out of the Great Jamahiriyah's adherence to this initiative to normalize relations between the two countries and to resolve pending issues peacefully, it took the initiative of releasing Chadian prisoners of war on 28 September 1988 and restored diplomatic relations with Chad at the end of October 1988. It also offered to use its [good] offices to achieve national reconciliation in Chad.

5. The Great Jamahiriyah has participated in all African efforts to improve the atmosphere between the two countries, and to find a peaceful solution to pending issues. It took part in the Bamako summit of 20 and 21 July 1988 which paved the way for the Algiers Agreement of 21 August 1989.

6. On the other hand, out of its commitment to implementing the Algiers Agreement, the Great Jamahiriyah has taken part in all the meetings of the joint committee between the two countries, in the search for a peaceful political settlement of the questions pending between the two countries.

7. Out of its eagerness to make available all the oportunities for implementing the Algiers Agreement, and in order to arrive at a common understanding to implement the commitments of the two sides, the Great Jamahiriyah took part in the Rabat summit which was held at the end of last August.

8. On the other hand, in affirmation of the Great Jamahiriyah's continuing commitment to implementing the Algiers Agreement, the initiative was taken to refer the border question to the International Court of Justice on 30 August 1990, and the Great Jamahiriyah is pursuing its efforts within the joint committee.

While affirming the commitment of the Social People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to its previous policy, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and Cooperation reaffirms that the Social People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has nothing whatsoever to do with what is going on in Chad, which is a conflict between internal parties to whom no one can deny the quality of being Chadian. A domestic conflict is the natural term for what is going on now in this country which neighbors the Social People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Social People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is not responsible for the renewal or continuation of the conflict as long as the framework governing its relations with Chad is based on relations of neighborliness and cooperation, and on the conventions of the regional and international organizations. This is binding on the Social People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and on others with regard to the Social People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Asked To Aid Peace in Liberia

African Leaders' Request

LD2011115190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1125 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Nov (JANA)—The presidents of Gambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, and Togo have addressed a strong appeal to the brother leader of the revolution to use his moral influence and leadership standing in Africa to help restore peace to Liberia.

The appeal was made during a meeting the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's

Bureau for Foreign Liaision and International Cooperation held in Tripoli this morning with Gambian External Affairs Minister Omar Sey, Nigerian External Affairs Minister Ike Nwachukwu, and Ghanaian Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah, who are all members of the West African Committee on Liberia.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Response

LD2111095590 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received members of the West Africa Committee on Liberia—including Gambian Affairs Minister Omar Sey, Nigerian External Affairs Minister Ike Nwachukwu, Ghanaian Foreign Affairs Secretary Obed Asamoah—who were entrusted by the presidents of the West African countries with the task of conveying their warm appeal and request to the brother leader of the revolution that he use his influence and moral weight and leading role in Africa to help restore and establish peace in Liberia.

During his meeting with members of the committee, the brother leader said he will use the experience of 22 years of revolution he has gained in serving the sacred causes of Africa, out of his respect for the African will. He pointed out that he will use his moral and ethical influence to ensure the success of this committee's mission and the forthcoming summit of West African countries, scheduled for Bamaku on 27 November, to be attended by the presidents of 16 African countries who will work for peace and security in Africa and will respect the will of its people.

Members of the committee praised the distinguished role played by the universal revolutionary in Africa. They affirmed that the presidents of the African continent consider him their symbol and ideal in the defense and struggle for the causes and liberation of the continent.

Morocco

Consultative Council on Human Rights Meets

LD1911135890 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 19. (MAP)—The "Consultative Council on Human Rights" in Morocco has decided to set up three task groups entrusted each with one aspect of the council's activities.

Mohamed Mikou, the council's secretary general, made the announcement at the end of a meeting the council held Friday [16 November] in Rabat.

The first task group is in charge of examining issues pertaining to police custody, the second of examining the situation in Moroccan prisons and the third of information and contacts with organizations concerned with human rights.

The first group is chaired by Mohamed Jalal Essaid (first deputy-speaker of the parliament), the second by Hashmi Bennani (former secretary general of the Arab Labor Organization) and the third by Abdallah Aroui (historian, member of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco).

The Consultative Council on Human Rights was created by King Hassan II last May 8.

The Friday meeting was attended by ministers of justice Mustafa Belrabi Alaoui, of the interior and of information Driss Basri and of national education Taieb Shkili, as well as by commander of the Royal Mounted Police General Housni Benslimane, director general of National Security General Aziz Wazzani, inspector of the Auxilliary Forces Colonel Abderrahim Lahrizi, director general of penitentiary administration Hammou Mestour, director of penal affairs Omar Doumou and several other senior officials. In an address on the occasion, Secretary General Mikou said the first group has chosen to tackle the legislative aspect in priority rather than the practical. He said the starting point will be the examination of the amnesty international report, as instructed by King Hassan II.

Taking the floor next, Minister of the Interior and of Information Driss Basri said this meeting follows a series of others devoted to preparing and approving the council's internal regulations, to the council's philosophy and approach and to the amnesty international report.

This report, Basri said, should be thoroughly examined, in conformity with the sovereign's wish, to provide all the elements necessary for the council's members and the domestic and international public opinions.

The minister said the government is ready to provide all material and moral backing to the council so it could distinguish that which is true from what is false. He said the government expects the council to examine the amnesty international report in an objective, responsible and unbiased manner to establish the truth.

Basri underlined that if it were established there has been violation of the law, necessary measures will be taken to remedy the situation. If not, he added, then it is necessary to demystify the tendentious allegations against our country and foil manoeuvres by Morocco's enemies abroad, aimed at giving a false image of the Kingdom.

Basri noted that the presence of senior officials in charge of security in the country testifies to Morocco's sincere desire to clarify the situation.

Minister of justice Mustapha Belarbi Alaoui in this regard stressed that, in conformity with the high royal directives, perfect harmony is established between the ministries of justice and of the interior. He said Morocco is a state of law and all prisoners in the country are so by virtue of verdicts made in conformity with the law.

The minister on the occasion denounced the vicious campaign certain French media are leading against Morocco and its sacred institutions, reiterating that

Morocco is a state of law and that the council has been created precisely to further consolidate this state of law.

Sudan

Opposition Says Eight Killed in Railway Strike

NC2011174590 Paris AFP in English
1707 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] ABU DHABI, Nov 20 (AFP)—A two-week-old railway workers strike in the northern Sudan town of 'Atbarah has led to clashes in which eight demonstrators have died and hundreds have been wounded, opposition leaders said Tuesday.

The Unionist Democratic Party (UDP) has appealed to the London-based Amnesty International to make a public indictment of the military government of General 'Umar al-Bashir who came to power in a coup in June 1989.

"Clashes between demonstrators, security forces and Islamic militia have left behind eight persons dead, hundreds wounded and an unknown number of people detained without questioning (in 'Atbarah)," UDP secretary general Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi said in the appeal.

A copy of the message issued in an Arab country was telefaxed to AFP.

Mr. al-Hindi said a strike by 13,000 railway workers in the town was still holding after two weeks and had turned into a "civil commotion movement" against the government.

Military authorities dismissed 12,000 railway workers deprived them of service entitlement and threw their families out of their homes, Mr. al-Hindi said in the message.

He said a dawn-to-dusk curfew has been imposed on the town, schools shut down and "drastic shortages" had been reported in food and medical supplies" because of disruption of rail and road links and a ban on buying food from outside.

Financial, Technical Aid Deal Signed With PRC

EA2011100090 Khartoum SUNA French
0917 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Nov (SUNA)—Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, the minister of finance and economic planning, has said that General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's tour of Japan, China, and Pakistan has achieved remarkable successes in all fields, notably in the economic field. In a press statement, Mr. Hamdi stated that a financial and technical assistance agreement of an additional amount of [word indistinct] million yuan ($9.5 million) had been signed with China in addition to the (sixth) Chinese loan estimated at 50 million yuan, to be drawn as of next year.

Talks With Iranian Delegation Begins 18 Nov

EA2011094690 Khartoum SUNA in French
0921 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Nov (SUNA)—Sudanese-Iranian talks started (?yesterday) at Friendship Hall, Khartoum, under the chairmanship of Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, Revolution Council member and Central Province governor, for the Sudanese side, and Mr. Gholam Reza Foruzesh, the Iranian minister of construction jihad and leader of the Iranian delegation currently in the country. At the beginning of the proceedings, the two officials paid tribute to the (?developed) relations between the two countries. It is worth noting that the ministers of housing, industry, agriculture, irrigation, trade and education attended the proceedings.

Ex-Ministers Said Arrested After Coup Attempt

PM2011163590 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
15 Nov 90 p 1

[Sa'idah Ramadan report: "Sudanese Sources Reveal Failure of Fourth Coup Attempt Against Military Council in Sudan"]

[Text] Sudanese sources yesterday revealed the foiling of a fourth coup attempt against the ruling military council in Sudan. The sources emphasized that the military government launched a large-scale arrest campaign following the foiling of the attempt, which took place recently. The arrest campaign included 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, deputy leader of the Ummah Party and former finance minister; Salah 'Abd-al-Salam, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Makri Adil, former education minister. The sources confirmed the participation of Army officers and Sudanese political figures in the coup attempt. Railway workers as well as workers in the Sudanese city of 'Atbarah recently organized a campaign of large-scale protests. And huge demonstrations were staged in al-Ubayyid. Demonstrators burned the home of the provincial governor and the town's market.

Bahrain

Amir's Surgery Reported Successful

JN2111054390 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, Nov 20 (GNA)—It was announced in Manama today that H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah had a successful surgery at Cleveland Clinic in the United States.

The Bahraini Amiri Court takes this opportunity to wish H.H. the amir a speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, the Deputy of H.H. the Amir, Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, sent a cable to H.H. the amir wishing a speedy recovery following his successful surgery.

Shaykh Hamad also made a phone call to the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, who is also in the United States, to congratulate him on the successful surgery of H.H. the amir.

Kuwait

Recruitment of Egyptians, British Denied

NC2011134690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 20 Nov (MENA)—The Kuwaiti Embassy in Tunisia today denied reports it recruited Egyptians and British to liberate Kuwait.

The pro-Iraqi Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ, which published this denial today, yesterday carried this report in its banner headline attributing it to AFP.

The denial issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy here noted that a similar denial was issued in London by Walid al-Khubayzi, a member of the Kuwaiti Embassy staff. AFP had attributed the report to him.

Qatar

USSR's Belonogov Leaves Doha 20 Nov

JN2111072990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 20 Nov (WAKH)—Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy, left Doha for Abu Dhabi this evening after a two-day visit to Qatar as part of his tour of a number of the region's countries. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

New Cabinet Under Shaykh Maktum Announced

JN2011173690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Nov (WAKH)—A new cabinet of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] under the chairmanship of Shaykh Maktum Bin- Rashid Al Maktum, deputy president of the UAE, was announced in Abu Dhabi tonight.

This came in a federal decree issued by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president. The decree broadcast by WAM, notes that the new cabinet is comprised of Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan as deputy prime minister and 23 other ministers.

New Cabinet Ministers Listed

JN2011193890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1728 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Nov (WAKH)—The following is the text of the federal decree on the formation of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Council of Ministers:

We, Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, after taking cognizance of the provisions of the Temporary Constitution and the decision charging His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, deputy president of the state, with the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers; and, upon the recommendation of his highness the prime minister, decree the following:

Article 1:

The UAE Council of Ministers will be formed under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum. And their excellencies the following deputy prime minister and ministers shall be the members of the Council of Ministers:

Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister.
Hamdan Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, minister of finance and industry.
Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, minister of defense.
Hammudah Bin-'Ali, minister of interior.
Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of foreign affairs.
Muhammad Sa'id al-Mulla, minister of communications.
Humayyid Bin-Ahmad al-Mu'alla, minister of planning.
Muhammad Bin-Ahmad al-Khazraji, minister of Islamic affairs and awqaf.
Humayyid Bin-Nasir al-'Uways, minister of electricty and water.
Sa'id Ghabbash, minister of economy and trade.
Sa'id al-Raqbani, minister of agriculture and fisheries.
Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of labor and social affairs.
Sa'id al-Ghayth, minister of state for cabinet affairs.
Khalfan Bin-Muhammad al-Rumi, minister information and culture.
Hamad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Madfa' minister of education.
Ahmad Bin-Humayyid al-Tayir, minister of state for financial andindustrial affairs.

Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreignaffairs.
Muhammad Bin-Saqr Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi, minister of state for
Supreme Council affairs.
Nuhayyan Bin-Mubarak Al Nuhayyan, minister of higher education.
'Abdallah Bin-'Amran Traym, minister of justice.
Ahmad Bin-Sa'id al-Badi, minister of health.
Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and mineralresources.
(?Rakkad) Bin-Salim Bin-(?Rakkad), minister of public works andhousing.
Faysal Bin-Khalid Bin-Muhammad, minister of youth and sports.

Article 2:

The prime minister shall implement this decree as of the date it has been issued, and it shall be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi on 20 November 1990.

USSR's Belonogov Arrives For Visit

JN2111073490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0538 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Nov (WAKH)—Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha last night on a visit to the United Arab Emirates as part of his tour of a number of the region's countries.

The Soviet envoy is carrying a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Emirian President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with the current situation in the region, the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and Soviet efforts to end the crisis.

The Soviet envoy has visited Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Qatar. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy is also touring the Arab Maghreb region.

Shaykh Zayid Receives New Jordanian Envoy

JN2111092490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] 'Awad Abu-'Ubayd, Jordan's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, today presented his credentials to Emirian President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He also conveyed to his highness His Majesty King Husayn's greetings. His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty King Husayn. He also noted the brotherly relations, which have been an example of ties among states, and expressed his understanding of Jordan's situation, positions, and potentials.

Yemen

Iraq's 'Aziz Delivers Saddam Message To Salih

JN2011204090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1954 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Sanaa, 20 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister, handed a message from his excellency the president to Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen.

This took place when the Yemeni President received Tariq 'Aziz.

An INA correspondent in Sanaa said that during the meeting, bilateral brotherly relations and regional, Arab, and international developments were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Foreign Minister Al-Iryani Leaves for Tehran

JN1811191090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani today left for Tehran leading our country's delegation to the first session of the Higher Yemeni-Iranian Committee, which will begin proceedings in the Iranian capital, Tehran, tomorrow, Monday.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY-SABA, the brother foreign minister said he carries a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, for Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He pointed out that the Higher Yemeni-Iranian Committee confirms the strength of relations between the Yemeni and Iranian people which are built on the strong tie of Islam and the ties of joint history and unity of objectives in progress, freedom, and development, based on the goals of the Yemeni and Iranian revolutions to protect sovereignty and independence and break free from the filth of the political, economic, and social corruption that the enemies of the Islamic nation are trying to impose on the oppressed in developing countries.

PFLP's Habash Arrives For Meeting

JN1811182390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], today arrived in Sanaa on a visit of several days to our country during which he will meet with brother officials to discuss Arab region developments.

Dr. Habash told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY-SABA that he was happy to visit our country for the first time since the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen. He said he sincerely hoped that the Yemeni people would

realize their great hopes in their blessed unity and that this unity would produce substantive and positive results for the Yemeni people and the Arab nation.

He pointed out that his talks with brother officials will seek to unify and coordinate efforts against the current onslaught. He said he will also discuss ways to support the valiant Palestinian intifadah, which has raised the slogan of freedom and independence.

He was received by brothers Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Advisory Council and secretary of the General People's Congress Standing Committee; Jar-allah 'Umar, member of the Advisory Council and of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau; and Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa.

National Assembly Approves Release of Germans

JN2011192590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1912 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] In its extraordinary session today, the National Assembly approved by majority vote leader President Saddam Husayn's humanitarian initiative contained in his excellency's message sent today to the speaker and members of the National Assembly; namely, to give all Germans not permitted to leave Iraq the freedom to leave Iraq or remain.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih opened the session by calling the head of the Arab and International Affairs Committee to read leader President Saddam Husayn's message addressed to the speaker and members of the Assembly today. The head of the Legal and Administrative Affairs Committee then read [words indistinct].

Paper on Aims of Allowing Foreigners' Travel

JN2011105890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that Iraq is proceeding sincerely toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and that if this just demand is not achieved, then it has the right to confront any aggression or armed attack against it with all means in its power.

In its editorial today under the headline "A New Iraqi Peace Message," the paper says: Regarding its brave and responsible stand toward peace, Iraq does not seek to flatter anyone or receive flattery from anyone. What pleases Iraq most is true understanding of its peaceful inclinations, and a brave stand toward the American hostility that is haunted by the spirit of war and military escalation that will lead the region to terrible destruction.

The paper adds: We want to prove an important fact, namely that Iraq's new step on the road to peace is aimed at all good people in the world, particularly those hesitant international parties that are being exposed to the pressure of American blackmail, so that they can adopt a decisive stand and dissociate themselves from the storm of war that is being stirred by Bush, Thatcher, and the traitors of the Arab nation.

The paper notes that through all its responsible stands toward the Gulf crisis and all the region's issues, Iraq expresses a firm desire for peace through dialogue and political settlement. Whoever thinks that Iraq is maneuvering and seeking to gain time through all its peace initiatives and steps is mistaken. In fact, he should realize clearly that the mighty power of peace and a solution urges Iraq to adhere to the logic of a peaceful solution to the developments in the region, and that anything other than this is mere nonsense and sick delusions that Bush and the war advocates are trying to peddle to justify their aggressive actions and behavior.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Through its peaceful stands and steps, Iraq does not seek to receive a price for its principled humanitarian positions through opportunistic political stands based on double standards toward the region's issues that seek to divide its true position on the Gulf crisis. In fact, it proceeds toward a just and comprehensive peace that would prevail in the entire region.

It adds: It goes without saying that the decision allowing foreign guests to leave Iraq, as well as being a new Iraqi peace message to the world, at the same time constitutes a sound and a wise step made by Iraq's unique leader, President Saddam Husayn. The move is aimed at giving the peace process magnanimous and sincere scope through dialogue without pressures or sensitivities from any side concerned with the issue of peace, and consequently at foiling an important part of the claims and justifications of aggression on which the erroneous American stand is based.

The paper says: After this humanitarian and peaceful step, Iraq's stand toward peace in the region no longer tolerates suspicion, swindling, or delusion, especially since Iraq has offered maximum sacrifices as a prelude to sitting at the negotiating table to resolve the region's issues, and clearly announced, through its leader President Saddam Husayn, its readiness to offer additional sacrifices for the sake of achieving peace in the entire region. It stresses that Iraq has offered all that is required from it regarding peace out of its international and humanitarian responsibility, and that if the forces of war and aggression will not respond to its peace efforts and initiatives, then it will have no choice but to reveal a mighty power that will convince Bush, Thatcher, and the traitors of the Arab nation that Iraq's peace is the peace of the strong and brave.

British Women Praise Treatment of Husbands

JN2011211090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1932 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Wives of British nationals hosted by Iraq have appealed to women of the world, and through them to women's organizations, to raise their voices loudly, to seek the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Arabian Gulf, to abandon the war option, and to consolidate dialogue and the peace option. In a statement today while in Baghdad on a visit to their husbands, the British women said that, despite the warnings to them by many Western departments and governments of the dangers of such a visit, it has become clear to them that the Western media have been involved in a major disinformation campaign to distort the image of Iraq and its people. They said their husbands in Iraq are being given the full and comprehensive care that a man would not enjoy even in his own house. They were unanimous that President Saddam Husayn's 18 November initiative of allowing the guests of Iraq to depart successively until 25 March confirms beyond doubt that Iraq wants nothing but peace.

In their statement, the wives of the peace messengers—the guests of Iraq—denounced the presence of U.S. and

allied forces in the Arabian Gulf region. The statement urged all women's organizations in the world to be peace advocates, to renounce the policy of war and destruction, to put pressure on the United States and its allies to spare the world the agony of war.

Government Introduces Death Penalty for Hoarders

JN2111105690 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Nov 90 p 8

[By Sa'd 'Abd-al-Latif]

[Excerpt] The National Assembly has held its ninth session in the current term under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

The Assembly members approved a bill making the government solely responsible for marketing wheat, flour, barley, rice, and maize at prices to be fixed by the government itself and asking the citizens to turn over whatever quantities of these crops they have in their possession within a maximum period of two weeks as of the date of the enforcement of a decision in this respect.

Agricultural, commercial, legal, administrative, financial, and planning committees have discussed and made their observations on the subject. They affirmed that the emergency situation through which the country is passing due to the criminal economic blockade led by the United States, its imperialist allies, and the traitors of the Arab nation, calls for a firm confrontation of this hostile conspiracy on all levels and by all means, including economic measures, and especially those affecting grains and their derivatives, which are considered one of the weapons of a strategic war.

The committees feel that the current situation represented by the buildup of the world evil forces against resurgent Iraq calls for the government's direct intervention to safeguard and ensure basic foodstuffs—mainly wheat, flour, rice, and maize—and that government control over the production and marketing of these items in the present circumstances enables the government to make sound plans and programs for protecting the public interest and ensuring the sovereignty of Iraq and the dignity of its people. Moreover, government control over these items fulfills the strategic objective of keeping a record of the quantities produced and regulating strategic reserves of these items.

The bill permits the wheat farmer to keep 500 kg of wheat and the rice farmer 200 kg of rice.

The bill also provides for the death penalty for anyone who tampers with these foodstuffs whether for the purpose of hoarding them or trading in them.

Several Assembly members praised the bill, affirming that the current phase calls for such a decision to deter whoever contemplates tampering with the people's food. Some members, however, were inclined toward reducing the penalty to life imprisonment. Those supporting this trend were Hasib 'Arif, Mujbil al-Shaykh 'Isa, 'Adnan Hasan, and Muhammad 'Ilan.

Replying to a question concerning the quantities of foodstuffs that already exist in the market, the National Assembly speaker said the sale of these quantities will also be the sole responsibility of the government, which will purchase them and then redistribute them under the ration card system currently in force. This includes imported and locally produced foodstuffs, he added. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Reacts to Shamir Remarks

JN2011180690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1514 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Iraq has condemned Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks on Zionist hegemony over Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

Iraq also demanded that this colonialist plan be exposed, confronted, and prevented from achieving its objectives.

In a statement to INA today on Shamir's statements, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, said that Iraq's clear and correct vision has diagnosed the objectives of the Zionist-imperialist design of dominating the Arab homeland, enslaving its people, and controlling its resources. The current series of events proves the soundness of what Iraq has frequently warned against and risen to confront.

Zionist enemy Prime Minister Shamir's declaration that the Zionist entity's objective is not confined to retaining the occupied Arab territories, but extends from the sea to the river to establish the Zionist project promised by the founders of Zionism and planners of the division of the Arab homeland, is represented by the Greater Israel project extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. This is blatant evidence that the enemy design is now entering the stage of implementation and that all the cards have been revealed.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim added: In condemning Shamir's aggressive, expansionist remarks and considering them a flagrant defiance of the Arab nation and a blatant demonstration of disregard for international law and UN resolutions, Iraq calls for exposing and confronting this design and preventing it by all means from reaching its objectives.

The culture and information minister said that Shamir's announcement reflects the real objectives of the Zionist entity, which has become a serious threat to both regional and international peace and security. The timing of this declaration at this stage when imperialism, Zionism, and their small agents have agreed on the objective of antagonizing Iraq and planning aggression against it, after having exhausted the economic and political means of pressure led by the United States of America with the aim of starving the Iraqi people and undermining their steadfastness, is an expression of the

fact that the hateful aggressive alliance that antagonized Iraq has common interests because it found that Iraq is the wall that is blocking the plan to dominate the region, including the design of diffusing the Palestine question and ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people.

The culture and information minister said it is our national and pan-Arab duty to destroy the Zionist project in any way we can so that the Arab nation, represented by its national forces and its faithful masses, can use all its capabilities to end the hostile Zionist policy and Zionist expansion. This will constitute a new historic opportunity for the Arab nation to express its genuine character.

The new chapter of conspiracy, as revealed by Shamir's remarks, shows that the roots, background, and fate of the region's issues are linked together and that it is impossible to handle any problem in isolation from the other problems, foremost of which are the Palestine question, the usurpation of the Palestinian people's rights, and the Zionist role in exposing the region to a permanent danger. There is no solution apart from President Saddam Husayn's historic 12 August initiative to solve all the region's problems in the context of their historical background and roots, because this initiative, through its comprehensive nature, opens a real door to a stable peace in the region and can close the door to the policy of expansion represented by the Zionist entity, whose steps are completely supported by U.S. imperialism.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim added: We wonder: What is the position of Shamir's friends and Bush's brothers among the treacherous rulers, who have opened all doors to the American and Zionist occupiers to tread on the Arabs' land and encroach on their sanctities in the Arabian Peninsula after holy Jerusalem? What is the excuse of those who have departed from the Arab nation's will after providing, through their deviant policies, suitable circumstances and climates to enable Shamir harshly to declare the Zionist project to establish the state of aggression from the sea to the river by occupying the land of the Arabs, having already occupied the land of Palestine?

Concluding, the culture and information minister said: There is no doubt that collaborators with Zionism among traitors like Husni, the obedient son of the ill-reputed Camp David accords, and the betrayer of the two holy mosques, who has perpetrated the ugliest precedent in the history of the Arab nation by opening the doors of the land of sanctities to the American invasion, will try to provide a cover for the new Zionist project as they have done with the American occupation of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabian Gulf.

Ramadan Charges Bush With Leading World to War

JN1911205090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has said that Bush is leading the world toward a destructive war in order to further America's interests in taking control of the sources of oil. He said they have officially announced that oil constitutes America's national security.

During his reception of a Spanish peace messengers delegation led by Jose Maria [name as received], member of the European Parliament, Ramadan pointed out that the American and NATO forces have come here according to a U.S. decision and not according to Security Council resolutions.

The first deputy prime minister added that the inhuman measures and the illegitimate resolutions tightening the siege on Iraq and preventing food, medicine, and milk from reaching children will only strengthen the Iraqis' adherence to their principles and their determination to defend their legitimate rights from Zakho to the sea.

The member of the European Parliament said that world public opinion supports peace and rejects the policy of war and aggression, stressing that real peace means a lasting and comprehensive peace for all the region's problems, as stated in President Saddam Husayn's 2 August initiative, that the Gulf problem is an Arab problem, and that the right solution should take place within the Arab framework without foreign interference.

Paper Calls for Saddam-Bush Summit

JN2011165690 Baghdad AL-THAWRA in Arabic 18 Nov 90 p 7

[Article by Sabah Salman: "Dialogue Before It Is Too Late"]

[Text] In my 7 October 1990 article headlined "Relaxation or Explosion," I tackled what at that time seemed to be signs implying that the tone toward the Gulf crisis, including that of President George Bush, had changed. I ended my article by saying: The U.S. President, who spoke at the United Nations in a tone that called for contemplation, should, if he wants to contribute to the relaxation of the crisis, change this tone to one of peace, one of whose prerequisites is dialogue with Iraq.

This is because logic dictates it. That is why dialogue with President Saddam Husayn is the real opportunity for peace. This is what President George Bush should realize. This is the only course to settle the Gulf crisis.

I am among those who believe that a meeting between President Saddam Husayn and President George Bush, not to mention a dialogue between them, is the road to peace, and an opportunity to defuse the war. From this premise, anyone who wants a political settlement of the Gulf crisis must knock on this door, since it is the first door to security and the beginning of the shortest and most secure road to an acceptable and logical solution.

I also believe that the exacerbation of the disagreement between President Saddam Husayn and President George Bush and the entrenchment of the estrangement between them will increase the chances of explosion.

This forces all those who wish to keep the region and the world away from the flames to speed up their efforts to extinguish these flames and move in this direction.

I am more than certain that those who succeed in the task of making Presidents Saddam Husayn and George Bush meet will not only receive the Nobel Peace Prize, but will occupy a privileged place in history as peace pioneers in the most perilous and critical stages of the history of the world and mankind.

No one denies that the Gulf crisis is a very serious test, wherein success begins and ends with a peaceful solution. Anything else will mean war and everybody agrees that it will be a tragedy and a catastrophe.

A peaceful solution will not only save mankind from the disastrous perils of war but will also demonstrate that it is the only course that can prove that those concerned have risen to the level of historical responsibility and have responded to the call of mankind's conscience.

Attaining this, however, is not easy. Following the path of a peaceful solution requires crossing a difficult passageway about which I am not embarrassed to say the following:

First: The passageway to be crossed is very narrow, and becomes narrower with every day that passes without the required efforts, so much so that it will appear to be almost closed.

Second: For this movement along the difficult passageway to benefit from the little time and space available, it must lead to the "heart of the crisis," if I may say so. I mean, to a point capable of affecting the crisis. Any efforts leading away from this point are merely attempts made toward distant ends when the race against the danger requires action at the heart of the crisis so that those lagging behind can be pushed toward peace.

Third: The crisis, though seemingly international and with worldwide implications, essentially reflects two opposing wills with alliances around each one. Each alliance reflects certain interests and hopes. The two sides to the crisis, therefore, are Iraq and the United States. The result is as follows: Any peace-seeking party that fails to take this into consideration will only have a slow effect on the crisis at a time when the crisis needs speedy action commensurate with the countdown that has started to a potential explosion.

And thus the historical responsibility for achieving peace lies upon the shoulders of the two sides to the crisis, Iraq and the United States. Humanitarian responsibility makes it imperative to accelerate international efforts to bring the two sides closer to a meeting, dialogue, and understanding. It is only fair to say, however, that Iraq's voice stressing peace has not faded for a single moment, while U.S. cries threatening use of force have never ceased for a single moment.

Let me say that these U.S. cries are more an expression of belligerence than of an opinion or a stance, and their danger is known in the existing and bleak crisis and the accompanying opposing military buildup and political and psychological tension. They represent the sparks of anger that may lead to the sparks of fire.

But why and how? The current crisis needs reason and wisdom more than anything else; belligerence has nothing to do with these, because it entails much stupidity and rashness, and, consequently, leads closer to tension and explosion than to relaxation and calm.

Moreover, the other party to the crisis, Iraq, does not find in this belligerence anything to tempt it to give more to untie the knots of crisis and solve its complications. The atmosphere of belligerence does not encourage such Iraqi action, not to mention that it hinders it or even leads to stronger reaction in the opposite direction. I am not assuming this on the basis of the scientific rule that "every action causes an equal and opposite reaction," but on the basis of my conviction and understanding of Iraq's policy and its leader's conceptions and actions. This is reflected in many statements and positions—for example, his statement during his 18 July 1978 news conference in which he said: "Let the entire world know that this country cannot be led through pressures or temptations, nor can it be forced to adopt positions or refrain from adopting positions except through sincere dialogue and in a manner that serves humanity."

Belligerence, therefore, is empty talk fatal to the language of wisdom and the logic of reason. In this current crisis, which has reached the edge of the cliff, it is the beginning of the real battle.

Abandoning belligerence, therefore, helps ease the crisis and pushes things away from the electrified atmosphere and the sparks of danger it entails.

Thus, dialogue is the right path in a situation where all other paths are mined and susceptible to explosion.

Dialogue is the acceptable language to produce logical solutions because the atmosphere it creates enables viewpoints to draw near to the essence of the crisis and to the actual position of each party. Therefore, a dialogue with respect to the Gulf crisis and between its two major parties is not a waste of time, futile arguments, or mere revolving in a vicious circle. It is the appropriate opportunity to exchange responsible and constructive viewpoints that place the crisis on a serious agenda. It is the most successful means of grasping the historic moment of sparing the region and the world the perils and tragedies of war.

Therefore, the one who seeks a serious solution to the Gulf crisis, a solution that prevents the shedding of blood, keeps the doors open to constructive, fruitful, and balanced cooperation, does not jeopardize world security and interests, and does not risk the status and reputation of the United States is the one who turns to President Saddam Husayn, because meeting with him and carrying out a dialogue with him are the means to achieve all this. Therefore, U.S. President George Bush

is the most concerned party in this, and I would say he is the sole one concerned, as President Saddam Husayn is the sole one concerned on the opposite side.

A meeting between Presidents Saddam Husayn and George Bush could lead the crisis out of a sea of gloom to the banks of security and the ports of peace; the U.S. President should be aware of this and deal with it with a sense of historical responsibility and the logic of objective facts.

I am not just imagining or being too optimistic. This is only an approach through which one can understand the essence of the crisis and the effective parties in it without avoiding the obstacles and difficulties it entails.

Giving such importance to dialogue compels us to mention two things:

The first is that only dialogue among the major parties is capable of overcoming obstacles and reaching responsible and constructive solutions.

The second is that if dialogue is to have an effect in settling the crisis, it should be viewed by all as being a historical need to save the world from the perils of war. From this premise, it is not a form of begging, or something imposed by force. If it takes place as a result of begging, it will result in submission; if it takes place by force, it will result in submission and subservience all the way.

In light of the above, I would like to say the following:

1. Reality, experience, and events have all shown that in crises that appeared to be intractable, President Saddam Husayn has demonstrated that he is the best able to tackle them in a spirit of historical responsibility and emerge with agreements that have proved that dialogue is the means for imposing political arguments over military confrontations.

2. President Saddam Husayn finds in any dialogue on an equal footing the chance that will give solutions their vast scope. Through such a dialogue, he has always proved before history that he is qualified to shoulder the momentous responsibility of not restricting his concepts within narrow confines that will kill the initiative from the very first session, but of opening broader vistas for dialogue and for the historical mission to proceed forward with all that is required for tackling events and developments in a constructive manner.

The U.S. President should appreciate the dire consequences of closing the door to dialogue and face history's question: Why war? And face the more serious question: What will the results of war be?

It is known that in any war, one party loses and the other wins. Has the U.S. Administration thought of the meaning of its losing the war against Iraq?

I do not want to give a detailed answer, but a U.S. defeat, clearly, will bring the status of the United States down low, and everybody knows what that means.

Moreover, regardless of the result, the war, as former national security adviser Brzezinski told THE NEW YORK TIMES, "will be costly in terms of the number of victims and economic destruction, and that it may shake stability in the Middle East."

But fears of the results of war are not confined to circles outside the U.S. Government. Circles involved in the war decision also have fears. The British newspaper THE DAILY MAIL cited a secret U.S. Defense Department report as indicating that the number of American fatalities in the war will be huge, and cited another report published by U.S. Army intelligence as indicating that U.S. forces may suffer 30,000 casualties if war breaks out.

War will only bring blood and destruction, and we may not need to note that oil, with its fields, wells, and facilities will be the primary scene of the great fire. This will constitute an everlasting tragedy for the world community, and will be accompanied by torrents of blood to cause agony to the U.S. community. The result will only be the destruction of the region and the world, especially the United States and the developed industrial powers. The world's financial institutions are complaining of economic deterioration. They believe "that high oil prices and the heavy cost of the military buildup in the Gulf have burdened the economies of the Western countries at a time when these economies are already heading toward recession."

According to REUTER, major world stock markets lost about 20 percent of their value; that is, trillions of dollars.

Can we, then, imagine the economic results if war breaks out and oil is burned?

The situation needs a solution to avoid catastrophe—something that requires dialogue, because logic approves nothing else. The U.S. Administration, above anyone else, is called upon to understand this fact and avoid adopting Kissinger's opinion—which seems to be stored in its memory. Assessing the positions of U.S. President Eisenhower and Soviet leader Khrushchev in the fifties—when in dealing with the crises the U.S. President considered himself the wise man and Khrushchev the madman—Kissinger thinks that America should have taken the USSR's view and given its own to the USSR. He says: "We must act as the madman and leave the Soviets to act sanely."

It would seem that President George Bush is proceeding on the basis of Kissinger's viewpoint, but in this crisis, this will inevitably lead to war.

We do not need to explain the horror of such an outcome. U.S. President George Bush, therefore, is urged to fear God and avoid the horrible result of war. If he does, he will understand the wisdom and importance of dialogue with President Saddam Husayn to resolve the crisis and avoid a catastrophe.

Fearing God is the great people's way to wisdom.

Paper Says Bush 'Frustrated in Europe'

JN2111112590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that if Bush goes ahead and becomes involved in igniting war against Iraq, then he would certainly receive several blows, strikes, and catastrophes that would be enough to curb him and eliminate him from mankind's course of history.

In an article under the headline "Bush, Two Impasses," the paper notes that Bush has involved himself in making hasty and hysterical decisions, rabid threats, and unbalanced statements, thus squeezing himself and his administration into a stifling impasse, or rather two impasses, each of which is more embarrassing than the other.

In its article, the paper says: During the Conference on Security [and Cooperation] in Europe that was held in Paris, Bush used his country's full political, economic, and military weight to gain support from the European states for his aggressive plan and for obtaining a resolution from the United Nations to authorize him to use force against Iraq. Reports and information, however, have clearly indicated that so far there are important differences between him and the European leaders.

Concluding, the paper says: Thus, Bush was disappointed and frustrated in Europe just as he was disappointed and frustrated in the United States.

Drawbacks of Military Option for U.S. Viewed

JN1911210090 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 90 p 3

[Article by Staff Major General Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim: "The American Decision and the Crisis of War or No War"]

[Text] It has been virtually impossible to tell with any degree of certainty whether the Americans will opt for war or peace in their handling of the Gulf crisis. There have been too many conflicting signals. Not any longer. The U.S. Administration now says it is coming under increasing pressure to opt for force to settle the crisis that has been nagging it for the past three months.

The question is not so much whether the forces of invasion are technically in a position to mount an attack as why the military option has gained precedence.

If the Americans will now go, as it seems, for the military option, this is not to say that the U.S. Administration has explored all the diplomatic avenues. This is because the game plan for the American military deployment in the region envisages military action against Iraq; and were it not for Iraqi countermeasures that have rendered the chances of success of any U.S. military action all that much less likely, the Americans would have started shooting.

Speaking to the World Affairs Council recently, U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney made no secret of the United States' preference for military action against Iraq. Cheney's words: "The contention by some that we are in the Gulf to defend oil prices makes no sense. If it were so, the United States would have dispatched forces to the Gulf back in the seventies when the crude prices trebled within three months." He adds: "We are in the Gulf for many reasons.... We are there because, over the last few years, President Saddam Husayn has shown himself to be bent on building up a huge military arsenal and one of the biggest armed forces anywhere in the world. He has acquired up-to-date weapons of mass destruction including long-range missiles and chemical weapons."

Meanwhile, Richard Murphy, a Middle East research specialist at the U.S. Foreign Relations Council, said much the same thing when he seemed to blame the Gulf problems squarely on Iraq's capability and potential, stressing the need for demolishing this power. "How are we to counter the threat posed by Iraq, not only for now but for the future as well?" Cheney added.

The United States may have decided to postpone aggression against Iraq, but the decision to use force is still on the agenda. The decision to wait must have been largely due to Iraq's convincing display of high morale and a capacity to endure a long haul, with the result that the Americans will now have to think twice before taking on Iraq.

There can be no two ways about why, as far as the U.S. Administration is concerned, the military option is tipping the scales, since the elimination of Iraq's military power has, from the outset been a top priority for them. In the American calculus, time does not seem to be working in their favor; and so the American attack will come sooner rather than later.

The controversy about the motives of this shift to the military option, however, now is due to the extensive doubt touched off by many queries asking about the outcome of war, and not about the decision for war.

For is the reason behind this shift that the opportunity for embracing the military option is now better than what it was in the past three months? Moreover, are the developments that have influenced the circumstances of a field confrontation, the outcome of this confrontation, and the international positions that influence these circumstances in favor of pushing things toward war? Lastly, will this battle, if it goes according to the plans drawn up, serve the aims of U.S. policy?

Henry Kissinger, who in the first days of the entry of U.S. forces into the region exhorted the Bush administration to hasten a decisive action against Iraq as it was necessary, and considered any delay in this direction tantamount to losing the opportunity, is now answering these questions by giving another assessment of the circumstances needed for embracing the war option, which he is still advocating, though in a different tone. This time, the effects of pressures bearing on this option are clear in his tone, as a result of recent developments that do not favor this option after

it has been held in abeyance for this long period. Kissinger said: "The war option will not be easy, nor attractive, and this is Bush's dilemma. If we recall the statements and conduct of the administration during the crisis, we will see that the decision should have been made. Because it is a very serious decision, however, it should not be made against a backdrop of frustration and failure or as a nervous reaction."

Kissinger, who has not renounced his call for the war option against Iraq, has now made it a condition that this decision not be the result of "frustration, failure or nervous reaction."

Here, it seems clear that Kissinger's conditions confirm the prevailing doubt about the viability of the war decision in the current circumstances. They also clearly state that this option has undergone many changes that have exercised a clear influence on American decisionmakers. All this prompted Kissinger, who is enthusiastic about the military option, to set these conditions.

Obviously, Kissinger, who sees eye to eye with the U.S. Administration on the need for the use of force against Iraq, is now advocating the need for comprehensive thinking, not only about the method to prepare for military action and make the decision to implement it, but also about its outcome. He said: "The diplomatic scenario on whose basis military action can be taken requires comprehensive preparation and consideration of all aspects and results."

As a matter of fact, by substituting the quick action that he had earlier advocated with a diplomatic scenario and comprehensive consideration of the outcome, Kissinger remains faithful to what he stated in the beginning of the crisis. Here, however, he is trying to provide a recommendation to overcome the crisis of the military option through comprehensive consideration and preparation. When we take into consideration that this recommendation comes at a time when there is no longer any doubt about the size of the military forces that have completed their deployment in the region after these months, it becomes clear that what is meant here by preparation and consideration is not the military aspect, but going beyond it and creating opportunities to use it to guarantee its outcome—something that was not contained in Kissinger's call in the first days of the invasion of the region.

While stressing the war option, then, the U.S. Administration is not acting from any conviction that it arrived at through opportunities for a better transition to this option, but is trying to find an escape from the pressures generated by the developments against war and their impact on the crisis of the war decision, which has been awaited for more than three months.

For, the countries whose armed forces the United States succeeded in enlisting for deployment in the region in the beginning of the crisis, under misleading claims to defend legitimacy and by virtue of its unchallenged pressure on the international arena, have now adopted a different position, which not only rejects the participation of their forces in any military action, but also rejects war politically. This position is also being taken by many international sides whose motives, objectives, and impact on the U.S. wager on the war option cannot be easily overlooked.

Gorbachev, for instance, has expressed the USSR position by saying: "The military solution to the Gulf crisis is unacceptable." Primakov, the Soviet president's envoy for international affairs, also clarified the USSR position when he said: "Moscow is seeking a peaceful solution, because it realizes that the military solution and the armed option that many are talking about could result in tragic consequences, whether for the Arabs, the region, or the world in its entirety."

The PRC has also subscribed to this position. The PRC foreign minister said: "The position of the PRC is to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and exert every possible effort to avoid the use of force and war." The French president was no less clear in his rejection of the war option. Also, Cheysson, French minister of international relations, emphasized this position, which he deemed an extension of world public opinion, when he said: "Public opinion has begun to understand more and more what it means for war to take place against Iraq. The Americans know that this will not be similar to military strolls, as in Grenada or Panama."

Moreover, this international rejection of war, be it an expression of disagreement with the U.S. viewpoint regarding war and its outcome, or an understanding of Iraq's peaceful stance, represents a stand against the military option as a decision and war as an outcome. Therefore, overcoming the crisis of no war that the United States is trying to remedy with war will create a new problem for the concept and future of aggression, which will render the U.S. stand more complicated than it was in the past period.

The proclaimed international position against war not only put an end to the ambiguity that accompanied this position during the first stages of the crisis, but also made the U.S. Administration lose the international umbrella that it wanted to maintain as a cover to peddle its schemes and protect its decisions in the various circumstances of the crisis. Moreover, this political position toward war has wide-ranging possibilities; if the U.S. Administration continues to push matters in the direction of war, new positions might emerge concerning the diplomacy of the crisis expressing national interests and not U.S. tutelage.

Assessing the international position in light of the above information, which points to rejection of war, does not mean—on examining U.S. decisionmaking—being resigned to the possibility that this position should be a reason for the Bush administration to abandon war. Such a possibility should be discounted for a number of reasons. Among these is that one of the major motives behind the U.S. Administration's adoption of the war decision can be deduced from what Kissinger says: "The United States cannot simply tolerate the idea that the first leading role it assumes after the end of the cold war should come to stalemate between the war option on the

one hand and abandoning the objectives that President Bush has emphasized on the other".

It can be said that the state of no war that has prevailed in the past three months is something of a dead end from which the only way out seems to be war. Addressing his words to Bush, William Sonevers [name as published], a historian at the Hoover Institute at the University of Stanford, comments: "As I see it, war is inescapable. How can you deploy 200,000 soldiers there and not use them and keep the President's credibility intact?"

The second reason is that bluster cannot be explained in terms of a psychological war designed to deter Iraq and force it to back down. Toward that end, the United States, unavailingly, used this kind of pressure on Iraq in the first days of the crisis. It will, therefore, try the tack of war, and place it high on the list of their contingencies. The question to be asked, though, is whether the United States will pursue the military option in order to attain specific goals in the name of working out the Gulf crisis, or whether it will use it as an escape route from a crisis that has made the U.S. Administration captive to Iraq's initiative over the past three months.

An analysis of the conduct of Iraq and the United States over the past three months would give Iraq the edge both in diplomatic and military terms, and would come to the conclusion that if and when the United States decides to go to war—immediately or in the near future—it will have been too late. Whatever fresh reinforcements are rushed to the area by the United States will fail to be of any significant effect.

There has been much talk about a war scenario that puts a premium on a devastating U.S. air strike to promote U.S. strategic objectives. This time around, though, the Air Force will not decide the fate of the war—not only because Iraq has the edge in land forces in terms of numbers, equipment, field experience, and its ability to transfer the field of battle beyond the immediate theater of operations, but because the element of surprise enjoyed by Iraq will compound the calculations of the aggressors. It does not matter whether these surprises will be by dint of Iraq's making the right decision at the right time or by using its accumulated military experience. On the strength of Iraq's experience in eight years of war, on that score, the United States surely has no illusions. Besides, Iraq's conduct over the past three months has acted as a constraint on the United States' freedom of action.

It is not so much on account of the decision to go to war, nor in terms of its material requirements, that the military option will be hard on the United States. It will be more because of the consequences posed by a U.S. pause before deciding on the war option.

Paper Says Bush May Use UN To Avoid Congress

JN1911145490 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 19, INA—The English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said here today that faced with domestic and international demands to clarify the real objectives of the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf, U.S. President George Bush seems most likely to act swiftly to muster support for his new game at the United Nations Security Council.

By unilaterally deciding a military action against Iraq, Bush would have avoided the costly embarrassment before the lawmakers who still question the viability of his Gulf policy, if he has any, and demand an explanation of his latest decision of sending more troops to the Gulf.

Bush believes that, while the lawmakers are away, a U.N. Security Council resolution sanctioning a military action against Iraq would force the "grumbling but powerful" Congress and its committees and subcommittees to accept the decision of the international organization.

Earlier, influential congressmen from both parties have sounded alarm and advised the chief of the executive to show more caution. They blamed Bush that his escalation of both his rhetoric and military maneouvres with such speed would leave no room for solutions other than the force of arms.

There are now indicators showing Bush running unscrupulously, head first, towards the dark and dangerous abyss of military confrontation. The launching of a spy satellite, the political and psychological pressure he places on the Security Council and his persistence to turn down any effort, whether Arab or otherwise, to defuse the volatile situation in the Gulf are just a few.

Bush knows extremely well that even the War Powers Act requires, before anything, thorough consultations with the lawmakers. In any move to make a detour, especially now he is preparing for his re-election campaign, Bush will be sacrificing his political platform and risking his future in the Oval Office.

Nation Will 'Liberate' Holy Places, Jerusalem

JN2011152490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that Iraq knows that peace cannot be consolidated in the region without chopping off all the heads of aggression and amputating its tails and hands from shoulders.

In its editorial today under the headline "A Day Will Come When Bush Will Ask for a Way Out To Save Face," the paper says: The aggressive alliance has no choice now but to yield to the logic and laws of peace so that comprehensive peace can prevail in the region and its peoples can enjoy it.

It adds: In the crucial battle it is waging now, Iraq will not stop at defending its own land, but in its defense of its territory and the lands and sanctities of the Arabs and Muslims, its position will be that of defense coupled with

deterrence—deterrence of the American invaders and the evildoers who are lined up with them in the aggressive alliance.

The paper points out: Regarding the despicable servants and the ignominious agents, their end will come with the first shower of bullets of the battle, especially since these bullets will be more than enough for them. They will be no more and Bush should understand and comprehend this.

The paper stresses that even if Bush were to mobilize all the reserves of personnel and arms he has, or if he were to bring back to life all the dead personnel of the U.S. Army and throw them into battle, their numbers would not be enough to fight Iraq.

The paper points out that the Iraqi people are experienced fighters, whose defense of their existence, dignity, and civilization goes back 6,000 years, and that Bush should learn that Iraq's capabilities, means, and its sons' determination in this crucial battle will be able to cut them into pieces one column after another in the meat grinder prepared for them.

The paper says: In addition to defending Iraq in the crucial battle, which is an honorable and great duty by all standards and values, Iraq's duty is also to lead the group of believers to liberate all the sanctities in the holy mosque and the tomb of the noble prophet, after which the road to the liberation of holy Jerusalem will be paved.

Concluding, the paper says: This is what we wanted to say and what we have decided before God, history, and millions of Arabs and Muslims.

Nation Releases 238 Iranian Prisoners 21 Nov

JN2111100190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Some 238 convicted Iranian prisoners and those whose cases were referred to the judiciary left Baghdad today on board a special Iraqi plane.

The release of these prisoners is in accordance with the agreement reached between the Iraqi and Iranian sides during Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent visit to Baghdad.

The Iranian prisoners were seen off at the airport by the secretary of the standing committee for war victims, a representative from the Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Le Pen Expresses Support for Claim to Kuwait

JN2011151290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front and member of the French Parliament, has said that the return of Kuwait to Iraq is a clear Iraqi right.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today, he expressed the belief that the ideal political solution to the Gulf crisis lies in a dialogue that should involve Arab parties as well as the United States, provided that a solution to all regional problems is found within the context of this dialogue.

Le Pen said that France has been working to achieve a peaceful solution since the outbreak of the crisis. Observers have noted a shift in its position. Many figures have explained their views on the issue, just as we have. Iraq is a friendly country and has done nothing it did not have the right to do.

The French National Front leader condemned the extremist French parties that have taken hard-line positions against Iraq and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He added that these parties are repeating fabrications and falsehoods promoted against Iraq by the Zionist propaganda machine.

Le Pen said that the presence of French troops in the Arabian Gulf does not serve French interests. Hence, France should bring these troops home. Besides, nobody in France believes that the French Army will be able to stand in the face of Iraq. Moreover, there is a French majority that believes it would be better for our soldiers to return to France, Le Pen added. He said that the French are attempting to be sensible and to be guided by the requirements of world peace. They are facing strong pressure, however, to being dragged to join the United States.

Le Pen stressed that Zionism is applying these pressures on French decisionmakers, despite the fact that Israel claims it will not get involved in the war. This contravenes the pressure being applied by some Israeli politicians who are working for a swift war against Iraq, Le Pen added.

The French National Front leader said: The French Army should not participate in any attack against Iraq, as we believe that neither France nor Europe has an interest in the issue, because Iraq is friendly to us and to Europe.

Archbishop Capucci Arrives, Rejects War

JN1911201090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1908 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the archbishop of Jerusalem in exile, arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

Archbishop Capucci stressed his rejection of war as a means to solve the problems in the Gulf and said he believes in the need for dialogue and direct negotiations to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Archbishop Capucci stressed the need to unify Arab ranks during such a serious period for the Arab nation in order to face all the imperialist and Zionist challenges and threats against its security and sovereignty.

Officials Comment on Baker Message to Levi

TA2111100190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Nov 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is prepared to commit itself to closer coordination and ties with Israel over the resumption of the peace process on condition that it is convinced that the Israeli Government's intentions are genuine and that it is a reliable and serious initiative. These conclusions were reached by senior political sources in Jerusalem from the wording of the message sent by Secretary of State Baker to his counterpart David Levi.

The same sources view the friendly tone of the message, as well as the warm telephone conversation between President Bush and President Hayim Herzog, as a U.S. signal that it is ready to turn over a new leaf in relations between the two countries. The end of the letter, however, shows that suspicions still pervade relations.

From the letter it appears that although Baker stresses that it would be a mistake to link the Gulf crisis to the Arab-Israeli conflict, he is determined to promote peace in the region. He therefore proposes sending Dennis Ross, assistant secretary of state for policy planning, to the region early next month to study new "creative ideas."

Minister Levi immediately replied that the visit is welcome, and the Foreign Ministry is currently preparing a detailed response to the message. In contacts held yesterday in Washington, it was agreed that Ross' visit will be held in mid-December, immediately after Shamir's return from New York.

It is also assumed that the changed U.S. attitude stems from Israel's readiness to compromise and receive an envoy on behalf of the UN secretary general. The foreign minister's office said yesterday that following Levi's meeting with the UN secretary general in Paris, it was agreed that the envoy would arrive in Israel at the end of the week, as proposed by Israel, and without any link to the Security Council resolution on the Temple Mount.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem yesterday expressed surprise that Levi found no need to relay a report on the contents of his talks with the UN secretary general and on his meetings at the European Parliament. The sources said the Prime Minister's Office had to learn about the meeting and the arrival of the UN emissary from the media.

'Feelers' Sent Out for Shamir-Bush Meeting

TA2011153390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky in Jerusalem and Allison Kaplan in Washington]

[Excerpts] There are feelers out to see if President George Bush is willing to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during the premier's visit to New York early next month. [passage omitted]

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office have instructed Israeli diplomats not to seek such a meeting. Last year Shamir was humiliated when the White House refused to schedule a meeting until the last minute—a move interpreted by some as a way of applying pressure on Shamir.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office deny that Shamir is seeking such a meeting. They say that Shamir's trip to New York beginning on December 7 is dedicated to helping American Jewish fundraising for Soviet Jewish absorption in Israel and receiving the Jabotinsky Prize.

Study Says Iraq To Have Bomb in 5-10 Years

TA1811074690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Two studies that are being published in Tel Aviv and New York this morning point to the possibility that Iraq will develop a nuclear bomb within five to 10 years. Researchers further predict that Iraq will develop launching devices for nuclear, chemical, and biological bombs.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a document published by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University avers that the surface missiles, which are being developed by Iraq, such as Tamuz-1 and Condor-2, are to be outfitted for nonconventional warheads. The Tamuz missile is designed to reach a range of 2,000 km. According to the research, Iraq has 50 mobile and stationary missile launchers, in addition to several dozen original Scud missile launchers which can be fitted on other missiles. [passage omitted]

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Majewski Visits

Meets With Officials

TA1911111390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 November 90 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] A senior Polish official said yesterday that his government is attempting to combat expressions of antisemitism.

In a meeting with government officials, Polish deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski said in Jerusalem yesterday that unspecified "administrative steps" are being taken against those who incite to ethnic hatred, government sources said.

Israel's total volume of trade with Poland is expected to multiply fourfold to $100 million by next year. Yosef Govrin, the Foreign Ministry assistant director-general for Eastern Europe said after meeting with the three-member delegation led by Majewski.

A planned visit by Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to Israel has been postponed due to the coming Polish presidential elections. However, exchange visits by parliamentary delegations during the coming year were agreed upon, an official said.

Outlines Visit's 'Achievements'

TA2111073390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The Polish prime minister and foreign minister are expected to visit Israel early next year, visiting Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski said yesterday. Majewski is the most senior Polish official to have visited Israel since the resumption of relations between the two countries. Our reporter Dana Goren heard Jan Majewski in Jerusalem:

After meetings with the prime minister and other ministers, Jan Majewski, the Polish deputy foreign minister, expressed satisfaction with his visit's achievements: Diplomatic ties between the two countries have been strengthened; willingness to hold more intense meetings and to exchange youth delegations was expressed; and the foundations for new trade agreements and scientific and cultural cooperation have been laid. We have made considerable progress in these fields; in addition, we have moved toward a solution of the problem of the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz, as well as the appropriate commemoration of the Jewish victims of that place, said Majewski.

A lot has been done, but the potential for relations between the two countries has not been fully realized, added Majewski. The main issue is to increase Israeli investment in Poland and expand trade between the two countries, which stands at $85 million annually.

The warmer ties with Israel, said the deputy foreign minister, do not run counter to the relations Poland maintains with a few Arab countries.

By the way, he has met with no Palestinian leaders here because, in his words, the sole purpose of his visit was to meet with senior Israeli officials, including, as said, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who was born in Poland. [passage omitted]

Chairman of Argentine Senate, Three Others Visit

Arrive in Country

TA1911114090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Nov 90 p 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] Dr. Eduardo Menem, the brother of Argentinian President Carlos Menem, and three other Argentinian senators arrived last night for a five-day visit. It is expected to pave the way for a presidential visit before the end of the year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday. Eduardo Menem, who chairs the Argentinian Senate and heads the ruling Peronist Party, is scheduled to meet with senior Israeli officials.

Menem Concern for Syrian Jews Noted

TA2111071890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem, who is of Syrian descent, has instructed his ambassador in Damascus to intervene in behalf of Syrian Jews. This was reported by (Adolfo Gas), the Jewish senator from Argentina, to our correspondent Gid'on Remez. The senator is a member of the visiting delegation of parliamentarians.

Speaking at a news conference, Senate Chairman Eduardo Menem, who heads the delegation and is the Argentine president's brother, said that the president has not offered to mediate between Israel and Syria and other Arab countries, but that he has offered to help the parties to promote peace.

The delegation members denied that Argentina has ever cooperated with either Egypt or Iraq in the development of missiles or nuclear weapons.

Marchuk Heads Soviet Scientific Delegation

Arrives for 10-Day Visit

TA1411183690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpts] A delegation of the Soviet Academy of Sciences headed by its president, Professor Guriy Marchuk, arrived in Israel a short time ago on an official visit. The delegation, comprised of 17 prominent academy members, will be the guest of Science and Technology Minister Yuval Ne'eman. The first Israeli-Soviet agreement on scientific and technological cooperation is expected to be signed during the 10-day visit. Our scientific affairs reporter Meron Tzur was at Ben-Gurion Airport.

[Begin recording] [Tzur] Prof. Guriy Marchuk is not only the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, but also a first deputy of the Soviet president. Hence, he holds a very senior position in the Soviet hierarchy and is in direct contact with President Mikhail Gorbachev. He arrived in Israel tonight accompanied by 16 prominent members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. [passage omitted]

This is a very important and historic day for us, Professor Marchuk said. After many years, we have come to Israel to sign with your country a historic agreement for scientific and techonological exchanges that will promote relations between the two countries.

In August 1990 President Gorbachev granted the Soviet Academy of Sciences independent status. Hence, we will be able to conduct broad relations with total independence, Marchuk noted.

Professor Marchuk seemed thrilled with the warm reception awaiting the Soviet delegation. Scientific contacts

between the two countries will clearly lead to the promotion of political relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, he added.

Science and Technology Minister Yuval Ne'eman referred to the importance of the delegation's visit:

[Ne'eman] Today we are talking about signing a scientific agreement that will actually be an agreement between the two countries. I see it as being the last stage before the natural establishment of full diplomatic relations, though I do not know when that will happen. In practice, I suppose we will henceforth have no problem in having full relations with the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Meets Levi; Discusses Relations

TA1511112690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Professor Guriy Marchuk, met in Jerusalem this morning with Foreign Minister David Levi. A Voice of Israel reporter says Marchuk praised the improved ties between the USSR and Israel. He said that before he left Moscow, he had raised the issue of direct flights and was told that a solution is near.

Foreign Minister Levi said he hoped the existing relations would be raised from the level of consular to full diplomatic ties.

Science Agreement Signed

TA2111125490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] In Jerusalem today, Israel and the Soviet Union signed their first scientific cooperation agreement. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the three-year agreement arranges for the exchange of technologies, joint research projects, and the exchange of scientists.

Professor Guriy Marchuk, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, noted that the establishment of scientific ties was considerably facilitated by the contribution of Israeli scientists who had immigrated from the USSR.

Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and science and technology, said that in the first stages, the exchange will focus on basic research spheres of the precise sciences.

Results of Antiguan Arms Inquiry Sought

TA1911113190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Nov 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Israel has asked the Antiguan Government to inform Jerusalem of the results of its investigation into the matter of the arms deliveries to the Colombian drug cartel.

The Israeli request was conveyed following reports in the media that Antigua had decided to draw conclusions against its chief of staff. Jerusalem's sensitivity on the matter is a result of the accusations that were leveled at Israel after 400 'Uzi submachine guns and Israeli ammunition were found in the possession of the Colombian drug cartel.

An investigation held in Israel discovered that these weapons had been supplied to the Antiguan Army. The results of the investigation were sent to the Antiguan Government at the time, after the Antiguans promised Israel they would supply Jerusalem with the results of their own investigation.

More Appointments, Post Changes With Coalition

TA1911131390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Deputy Minister Pinhas Goldstein will move from the Transportation Ministry to the Education Ministry and will be in charge of sports affairs and liaison with the Knesset. Minister Zvulun Hammer reached an agreement about this with him this afternoon.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Deputy Minister Efrayim Gur will probably move to the Transportation Ministry and that Deputy Minister Yig'al Bibi will be in charge of the Ecology and Environmental Protection Ministry.

Police Recommend Investigation Into Allocations

TA1611134590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The police recommend launching an investigation against Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki on the allocation of monies to various charitable associations that were headed by members of his family and his close associates.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the attorney general and the state attorney will probably decide next week whether to accept the recommendation. The matter concerns two complaints submitted to the police regarding Minister Sciaki's involvement, while still only a Knesset member, in authorizing the distribution of funds to four associations. The police looked into the complaints and recently sent their findings to the attorney general, along with a recommendation that an investigation be started against the minister.

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Eti Essed told our correspondent that the state attorney is currently studying the material and will decide on the matter within a few days.

Peled on IDF Activity North of Security Zone

TA2011184090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, said that all the operations outside the security zone are initiated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

[Begin Peled recording] The squad which was at least partially destroyed yesterday by paratroopers belonged to the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front terrorist organization. Over the past two months there have been a considerable number of incidents in that region by squads belonging to various terrorist organizations.

You probably remember that three weeks ago in the same place there was a clash between an SLA [South Lebanese Army] force and a squad, which a few hours earlier had attacked our patrol on Har Dov. During the ensuing chase, which started at midnight and ended at 1400, the SLA destroyed the squad. We know with certainty that this area is used as a point of departure for Palestinian terrorist squads. The aim of the IDF-initiated activity is to confront them as far as possible from the border outside the security zone with the aim of pushing this war as far as possible from the border and our populated areas. It is quite easy to prove statistically that in clashes near the security fence, and some of you have been present at such events, the price is usually higher because the speed of the IDF's reaction and the time factor is completely different when compared to actions far from the security zone. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 20 November quotes General Peled as saying that while "in the past three weeks there has been an increase in the scope of terrorist activity in southern Lebanon, he warned that we should not rush to claim that there has been an escalation in the region."]

Merhav on UN Envoy, U.S. Relations, Jordan

TA1711131090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 17 Nov 90

[Interview with Re'uven Merhav, Foreign Ministry director general, by Jack Katzenell; in Jerusalem, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Katzenell] What kind of welcome could UN Under Secretary Jean-Claude Aime expect, if he comes to Israel?

[Merhav] No terms have been set and we hope that Aime, who is an old friend of many of us, will come as soon as possible, see what he wants to see, meet whom he wants to meet, get the explanation he wants, and the thing will be over.

[Katzenell] It is hard to believe that he will not try to find out what happened on Temple Mount to present some kind of a response to the secretary general, to put an end to the thing as you put it.

[Merhav] I do think anything new has come up in the meantime which really warrants any—what you call—investigation. There is nothing to investigate. The things are very clear. I think we should see that as a sequel to his visit of June 1990.

[Katzenell] If he does visit the Temple Mount and talks to the Waqf, or wishes to do this, will Israel put no obstacles in his way?

[Merhav] I do not think we shall put any obstacles because the Temple Mount area, as you know, has been administered by the Waqf for many years. It is they who collect the proceeds of the tickets, and if he wants to go there, like anyone else, he is free to do so. There is no problem in that.

[Katzenell] Let me return to the Gulf crisis. President Bush was quoted as saying twice—once before the Jewish Federation of San Francisco, and once before the Jewish leader Seymour Reich and others in Washington—that if Israel opposes this proposed enormous arms deal with Saudi Arabia, then the United States will blame Israel for the loss of American lives in the Gulf. How do you react to this threat?

[Merhav] I do not think that any direct linkage can be made between the two. I do not have the exact quotations, and I would not like to react to anything which I have not read in detail. I can tell you one thing: We have seen in the Middle East, over the past 40 years, that arms were given to one country and then ended up in another country or for another purpose. And of course we are extremely apprehensive, especially because such an arms deal—by any standard—will change the balance in the area, and will generate a new arms race which we just cannot afford in this day and age, facing—as we are—all the great challenges which the State of Israel faces now. So, there is no question of such a linkage anyway. The question is if this is necessary; if we can afford the results thereof; and if it poses any danger to our security, which I think it does.

[Katzenell] If the United States is prepared to sell such enormous quantities of arms, and of such high quality, to Saudi Arabia, what is left of the special relationship between Israel and the United States?

[Merhav] Well, we will have to work it out. There has been a longstanding commitment of the United States to maintain our qualitative edge, and if such a deal indeed endangers that edge, we will have to look into it together with our friends in the United States and see what it means for all of us.

[Katzenell] Is a fight at the level of the Congress and the American Jewish community inevitable over this issue?

[Merhav] I do not know. We shall have to look into it, to formulate our policy, and if we think that something wrong is in the doing, we shall do whatever we feel necessary.

[Katzenell] And if, as it appears at present, the United States is not prepared to back down from its program, perhaps to reschedule it a little bit, and intends to go through with it, then there is really no alternative for Israel but to fight with tooth and nail?

[Merhav] I would not use such extreme expressions. What I am telling you very clearly is that the State of Israel will have to look, first and foremost, into its vital security questions, and we shall have to act accordingly. [passage omitted]

[Katzenell] Foreign Minister David Levi said this week, in direct reference to THE WASHINGTON POST story [on Israel's preparations for a preemptive strike against Iraq]: That is not the policy of the Israeli Government. What you are saying seems to imply that—well, who knows—perhaps something of this nature could be necessary?

[Merhav] I am not implying anything, I am not saying anything. I am saying very clearly that we are watching events very carefully, and we shall find the ways and means to guarantee our safety and security.

[Katzenell] How does that jibe with Israel's declared policy since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis of maintaining a low profile?

[Merhav] You can maintain a low profile and at the same time guarantee your own interests; this is not contradictory. What I am saying very clearly—and this has been said by the political level and by the executive level from the very beginning—is that we are watching very carefully, and maintaining a low profile does not mean that you lose your profile.

[Katzenell] In the past week there has been another infiltration from Jordan, and it is not the first this summer. There seems to be an escalation along the Jordanian border. The king and his Army and police seem incapable of preventing these. Is the deterioration along the border inevitable? Is the end of the Hashemite regime only a matter of time?

[Merhav] I would not go into any predictions. I can only tell you one thing: Recent events in Jordan in general, and along the western line, along the Jordan River in particular, indicate very clearly that what all of us need is a very strong and stable government in Jordan, in the Kingdom of Jordan. We can hardly bear with any further incursions along the border. We do not want to have any further loss of life to our people. We think that the Jordanian authorities should do whatever they can, and even more so, to guarantee that such incidents do not reoccur. On the other hand, as I stated before, in the face of the great crisis in the Gulf, the existence of a stable and strong Jordan as a strong future ally for any negotiations regarding the future of the Palestinians has now been clearly indicated more than ever before.

[Katzenell] You mean that even though King Husayn has come out in support of Saddam Husayn and has been criticized for this in many parts of the world, you feel that Israel cannot make peace without King Husayn?

[Merhav] I said that we cannot make peace and go any further without a stable government in Jordan. King Husayn has been there for a long time, and he is of course the natural partner for any further negotiations.

Commentaries View Planned Visit of UN's Aime

Palestinians Advised To Meet Aime

TA1511162090 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "We...and the Upcoming Visit of Perez de Cuellar's Envoy!"]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi announced that Jean-Claude Aime, the UN secretary general's envoy, will arrive in the country during the next few days. Israel stipulated to the U.S. Administration, and the latter agreed, that this visit by the UN envoy would have no connection to Security Council Resolution 672 but would be a continuation of the visit Aime made following the Rishon Leziyyon massacre last June.

It seems that Israel, in coordination with the United States, has managed to remove the Temple Mount issue from the Security Council's agenda. UN sources anticipate that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will agree to this formula. By this means Israel has succeeded in ending the debate about the events of "Black Monday," 8 October, for which the Security Council condemned Israel and proposed to send a fact-finding mission. Israel has managed to water down Security Council Resolution 672 and empty it of its content, with Washington's support and assistance, as a favor to its strategic ally.

Washington and Tel Aviv have succeeded in bypassing Security Council Resolution 672 in a way that would render it a mere formality and would correspond to Israel's allegations that what happened at al-Aqsa and what is occurring in the occupied territories fall within Israeli sovereignty and are an Israeli domestic affair.

This behavior constitutes a danger to the Palestinian cause and our people's future. When our problem is seen as an internal Israeli affair, there is cause for concern. Such a development pushes the problem into a dark tunnel, and the Palestinian people—who have struggled for long decades to determine their identity and personality—reject such a move. That path is beset with many dangers that will lead to the deterioration of the situation in the region.

Perhaps Washington and Tel Aviv have succeeded in foiling Resolution 672 because the U.S. Administration wants to concentrate again on the Gulf problem and conceal its differences with Israel over the Palestinian problem and the need to implement the resolution on the al-Aqsa events. These maneuvers, however, will not fool the Palestinian people, particularly when the UN secretary general has called for a conference of the countries that signed the Fourth Geneva Convention to look into ways of protecting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This means that Perez de Cuellar rejects the methods used by Washington to cancel Resolution 672.

Those who follow the news in the occupied territories and in the Arab countries cannot but feel indignation and pain at the United States' double standards. While Washington strives to implement fully the Security Council resolutions against the Iraqi people, the U.S. position is deceitful, tricky, and marked by "political hypocrisy" where Israel is concerned.

There remains the Palestinian position regarding the UN envoy. Will officials of Islamic institutions and bodies cooperate with Aime or boycott him? Although the Palestinian leadership has not issued any decision in this regard, it is perhaps better to meet with the UN envoy, but with the reservation that his mission is not a substitute for the UN delegation approved by the Security Council. Palestinian officials should meet with him as a sign of their respect and appreciation for the secretary general, and so that the UN envoy will get acquainted firsthand with the Palestinian viewpoint and return to UN headquarters knowing all aspects of the al-Aqsa events and what is happening in the occupied territories. He should return not having heard only the Israeli leaders' viewpoint, but naturally, also having understood the reality and the situation of the Palestinians!

Paper on Conformance With Resolution

TA1511170390 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 15 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Trickery Over the Security Council Resolution is Rejected"]

[Text] We hope that the UN secretary general will turn down the Israeli-U.S. proposal to send his envoy on a basis that is contrary to Security Council Resolution 672 regarding the investigation of the Temple Mount events. Such a proposal represents a deception of the Security Council, disdain for its resolution, and a fundamental deviation from its intent.

According to our knowledge and the resolution's text, the Security Council did not decide to dispatch an envoy of the secretary general on a pleasure trip, the itinerary of which would be decided by the Israeli minister of tourism. The Security Council decided to send a mission to investigate the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories in light of the Temple Mount events and the incidents that preceded and followed them. Those incidents show the need for protection, and they require the international community, especially those countries that signed the Fourth Geneva Convention, to carry out their responsibility of implementing that Convention and forcing Israel to respect it with regard to our people who are suffering under occupation.

Any deviation from the intent to send that mission should be firmly rejected by the members of the Security Council. Such deviation will give the Palestinian people in the occupied territories the right to boycott the secretary general's envoy if he were to come on the basis of the Israeli conditions. The Palestinian people will be ready to welcome him and cooperate with his mission if it falls within the framework of Security Council Resolution 672 and is in line with its content.

Perhaps there is an urgent need for the countries that are friends of the Palestinian people to put forward a draft resolution at the Security Council that would affirm the Council's previous resolution, allow it to exercise its authority to punish the party that refuses to comply with its resolutions, and hastens the convocation of the conference of countries that signed the Geneva Convention.

Paper Questions Purpose

TA2011172390 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Nov 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Jean-Claude Aime—Tourism or Politics?"]

[Text] Despite the U.S. Administration's intense efforts to focus world attention on the Gulf crisis in the Security Council and return the file of the Palestinian problem to the archives, this Council is continuing to discuss the UN secretary general's proposal to convene a conference of signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and ways of applying it to the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Security Council debate also centers on what was stated in Resolution 672 about the dispatch of a mission to the occupied territories, assigned by the UN secretary general to investigate the tragic events of 8 October on the Temple Mount, as well as the Israeli Government's refusal to receive this mission.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced its adherence to the Fourth Geneva Convention, but insisted that this Convention is legally inapplicable to the occupied Palestinian territories, in contrast to what was stated in Resolution 672 about the need to apply it to all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

The disagreement between the Israeli Government and the Security Council is not about the visit by Jean-Claude Aime, the UN secretary general's envoy, to the occupied territories, but rather about sovereignty over these territories. When the Israeli Government says that the Fourth Geneva Convention is inapplicable to the occupied territories, it affirms its position that these territories are not occupied. Consequently, it considers the investigation by a UN mission of the bloody events on the Temple Mount as an infringement of Israel's sovereignty.

The Israeli Government announced last week its readiness to receive UN envoy Jean-Claude Aimee, provided the aim of his visit would not be to investigate the Temple Mount events but rather to become acquainted with the general situation. Here the Israeli Government is saying once again to the entire world that the issue of its sovereignty over the occupied territories is not subject to debate.

Instead of holding a discussion about the secretary general's delegation, the Security Council should discuss

the issue of sovereignty itself, particularly since Resolution 672 acknowledged that the Geneva Convention is applicable to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. The fundamental disagreement between the Israeli Government and the Security Council is represented, above everything else, in the issue of sovereignty.

Evidently, the UN secretary general, along with all countries of the world, are aware that Washington is trying to end any debate about the Palestinian problem and focus attention on the Gulf region. Thus, in conformity with the policy of double standards, the Bush administration lacks the necessary seriousness, pragmatism, and wisdom to address the region's problems.

It should be stated within this context that Jean-Claude Aime's arrival in the occupied territories, whether with a tourist visa or as a pilgrim to the holy sites, is something that concerns him alone. But if he comes as the UN secretary general's envoy, this signifies strict adherence to Security Council Resolution 672.

Communist Party Warns Against UN 'Rubber Stamp'

TA1711172190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The central committee of the Israeli communist party MAQI [Miflaga Qomunistit Yisre'elit] has called on the presidents of the Soviet Union, the PRC, and France to prevent the UN Security Council from turning into a rubber stamp for a war, MAQI argues, the United States is preparing to launch in the Persian Gulf. MAQI argues that Israel is making preparations for a military operation which will pave the way to a war against Iraq.

Statistics Detail Unemployment Among Immigrants

TA1911115390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Nov 90 p 10

[Excerpt] Approximately 15,000 of all the immigrants that have arrived since the beginning of 1990 are unemployed. These figures were presented yesterday by Shmu'el Silvan, the director general of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, in a briefing before the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah.

Silvan reported that 24,000 immigrants have already approached the employment bureaus with requests for work. Approximately 8,000 landed a job through the bureaus, and an additional 4,000 found employment through other means. Another 30,000 immigrants are currently studying in language classes and will only enter the work force gradually.

From the data presented to the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah, it emerges that as of 16 November, approximately 150,000 immigrants have arrived in Israel, 140,000 of which came from the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Percentage of Immigrants in Territories Listed

TA2011152990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Between January and October, 1,075 immigrants settled in the territories. That is 0.8 percent of the 134,000 immigrants who arrived here during that period. This was reported by Uri Gordon, the head of the Jewish Agency Aliyah Department.

Green ID's Given to Arabs Barred From Israel

TA2011152590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Nov 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpt] More than 100 Arabs from a few West Bank villages close to Jerusalem were ordered to report to the civil administration building in Bethlehem yesterday to receive green identification cards, as the government began to implement its plan to bar 2,400 more Palestinians from working in Israel and thereby decrease violence against Israelis.

The orders had been sent to residents of al-'Ayzariyah, Abu-Dis and Sawafir al-Sharqiyah, warning them that failure to appear at the office at the appointed time would be considered a violation of security orders in Judaea and Samaria.

However, several of the orders were sent to persons who have already been deported from the country. One of them, Majid Labadi of Abu-Dis, considered one of the most important driving forces behind the first months of the intifadah, was deported in August last year.

His family told THE JERUSALEM POST that Labadi is in Cyprus waiting for papers that will enable him to live in Jordan.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens has agreed to issue 2,400 new green cards, bringing the number of barred Palestinians to 10,000. However, he has objected to plans by Economics Minister David Magen to cut the number of workers from 108,000 to less than 50,000, on the grounds that this would aggravate security problems in the territories.

In a related matter, Arab Journalists Association head Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, sent to jail for six months under an administrative detention order last week, yesterday issued a declaration from his cell in Junayd Prison, near Nabulus, denying the charge by Defense Ministry spokesmen that he had incited to violence.

In a letter taken out of the prison by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, an Israeli Arab who frequently mediates between Palestinians and Israelis, Abu-'Ayyash said:

"I support and continue to support a 'white intifadah' that carries a clear message of peace and desire for

freedom, independence and liberty. I support compromise which will assure our liberty and respond to your anxieties." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 20 November in a page 2 report by Oren Kohen, Shraga Zeiger, and Doron Me'iri says that "in two clashes yesterday between soldiers and Gaza Strip residents four locals, two from the Rafah refugee camp, were wounded. A 13 year old was shot in the chest and is in a grave condition. The other two were wounded in a clash with soldiers in al-Nusayrat and hospitalized at al-Shifa'."]

90 New Military Outposts Along Territory Roads

TA2111064290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] set up 90 military outposts along roads in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip during the past six months. The move is part of a plan by Defense Minister Arens to increase a feeling of security among residents of the territories. Each outpost costs some 200,000 shekels.

The Army also spent millions more last year for new jeeps and command cars in the territories. Tens of millions of shekels were also spent for detention centers in the territories which now hold some 11,000 detainees.

West Bank Curfew Lifted; Two Hurt in Jerusalem

TA1711182790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The curfew clamped on towns and villages in Judaea and Samaria has been lifted. The curfew was imposed on Thursday [15 November] to prevent disturbances on the second anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence. Most of the Gaza Strip remains under curfew.

There were disturbances today in Nabulus and Jerusalem. Police and Army forces dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets. No injuries were reported.

In Shu'fat in north Jerusalem, a woman was lightly injured when stones were thrown at the car in which she was travelling.

In the Abu-Tor neighborhood a border policeman was also hurt in a stone-throwing incident.

In the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, a firebomb was thrown at a house. It exploded but did not cause injury or damage.

Arab Woman Banned From Leaving for Three Months

TA1211140090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] An order was issued banning Zuhayra Kamal 'Abdallah of East Jerusalem from leaving the country for three months. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the interior minister signed the order after he became convinced that she is a senior activist in Judaea and Samaria for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist organization and that there is serious concern that her departure for abroad would endanger state security.

U.S. Pressure Anticipated After Arrest of Arabs

TA1411123690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Nov 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, 'Immanu'el Rosen, and Hanan Schlein]

[Excerpts] Israel is girding itself to confront the U.S. pressure that is expected following the administrative arrest orders issued against Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and Dr. Ahmad al-Yazchi, who figure among the most prominent Fatah supporters in the territories. Similar pressure was exerted in the wake of the Temple Mount incident and led to the release of Faysal al-Husayni, the most senior Fatah supporter in the territories.

Political sources yesterday evening confirmed that al-Husayni's remand was shortened in the wake of intervention from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. The sources expressed their belief that the embassy was acting on orders from Washington.

U.S. intervention was taken into account in the decision to carry out the current arrests. Sources in Jerusalem feared that if they continued to ignore the Palestinian leaders' subversive activities, the Palestinians would come to believe they were immune from prosecution. [passage omitted]

Sources in the defense establishment yesterday said that the Shin Bet was the body that recommended the arrest of Abu-'Ayyash and Abu-Zayyad to Defense Minister Arens, because of their increasing involvement in running the popular committees in the territories. The sources added that this was not a political decision. [passage omitted]

Explosive Charge in Jerusalem; Detainee Murdered

TA1611085490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] An explosive charge went off this morning at the al-Za'im intersection on the al-Tur ascent in Jerusalem. The charge was hidden in a pipe. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused.

The body of a security detainee was discovered this morning in Megiddo Prison. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the detainee was murdered by his cell mates, apparently because of suspected collaboration with prison authorities. The Israeli and Military Police are now interrogating dozens of detainees at the prison.

Update on Intifadah Violence in Territories

19 November

TA1911142190

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 19 November in a story by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs on page 8 reports: "A man killed a teenager and wounded two others yesterday when he opened fire on a group of youths in the village of Jaba', 10 kms. northwest of Nabulus, while in the Gaza Strip masked youths killed two men suspected of cooperating with the authorities." The report continues: "Military sources said the man in Jaba', described as someone who had cooperated with the authorities, opened fire because the youths had tried to kidnap his son." THE JERUSALEM POST report also states: "Earlier yesterday, all remaining military curfews were lifted off the Tulkarm area. It was the first day without curfews in the West Bank since the Temple Mount riot on October 8.

"In Rafah, masked youths shot dead Salah Hajazi, 28, after he was suspected of cooperating with the authorities." The paper reports that "Palestinians added that late Saturday [17 November] night masked youths stabbed and beat to death with axes Musa Abu 'Arafat, 45, from 'Abasan al-Kabir, also for suspected collaboration with the authorities." The report states: "Palestinians said that five people were wounded in clashes with troops in the Strip; one in Rafah, three in Khan Yunus refugee camp, and one in al-Mughazi camps. The army had reports of only one person wounded.

"The army said that the house of another stone-thrower directly involved in the attack on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reservist Amnon Pomerantz's car was demolished in the al-Burayj camp."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 November in a page A5 report by Eytan Rabin and Moshe Reinfeld reports: "A firebomb was hurled at a border police patrol in East Jerusalem. The bottle struck the police jeep and ignited. There were no casualties and no damage was caused."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 19 November in a page 7 report by David Regev states: "Masked men yesterday attempted to kill Husayn Jannat, the 41-year-old local council secretary in Jabalyah. He was wounded in the arms and legs."

21 November

TA2111125190

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 21 November in a page 10 report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs reports that "four men, believed to be Jewish, yesterday entered a West Bank village, took away a nine-year-old boy, beat him and then released him after 20 minutes.

"In the Gaza Strip, masked assailants killed two young men apparently because they were suspected of cooperating with the authorities. One was identified as Yusuf Muhammad Abu-al-'Alanin, 16, of Rafah. The second, about 20, whose body was found in an orchard near Khan Yunus, remains unidentified.

"The abduction occurred at 9 a.m. in the village of Luban al-Sharqiyah south of Nabulus, where two people were shot dead 13 days ago.

"The four men entered the house of Mujid Dahir and seized his son Mu'min. When the boy's mother, who was in the kitchen, tried to free him, the attackers allegedly struck her and dragged the boy into a car and drove away. The boy's father, a teacher, identified the car as having an Israeli license plate.

"Police confirmed the abduction and release of the boy several hundred meters down the road from his home, and identified the owner of the car as someone from a nearby Jewish village. It seems, however, the car owner may not have been involved in the abduction. The investigation is continuing."

"Unidentified arsonists set fire to a cherry orchard in Kibbutz Migdal 'Oz in Gush 'Etzyon, burning 200 trees. Footprints led to a neighboring Arab village.

"In Gaza, a 45-year-old woman from the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood died late Monday [19 November] night from a shock-induced heart attack, after soldiers entered her house to arrest three of her sons and two relatives, local sources said. The army confirmed the death, saying the soldiers had not attacked the woman, Maryam Abu-Jayyab, and that the family had said the cause of death was the woman's heart condition. Local sources said the soldiers decided to delay the arrest to allow the sons to attend a period of family mourning.

"A general strike was observed in the Strip to mark the anniversary of the death of Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din Qasim, who died in an attack on a British patrol in Jerusalem in 1935. A general strike was also observed in the West Bank.

"Palestinians said 11 persons were wounded in widespread clashes in the Gaza Strip. Four 15-year-olds were shot in al-Shati' refugee camp, and the army imposed a curfew on the camp following the unrest there, they said. The army said it had reports of three persons injured.

"In the Nabulus casbah yesterday evening, a nine-year-old boy was slightly wounded in the back by a rubber bullet, local sources said. Live bullets made holes in a car's gas tank, eyewitnesses said. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had no report on the incident.

"Local sources reported that three Nabulus families, totalling 26 persons, have been notified that their houses are to be demolished because their sons, Zuhayr 'Abdi, 17, Iyad Musa, 20, and Muhammad al-Kuttab, 18, had been sentenced for throwing firebombs, for their membership in the Popular Front and for interrogating alleged informers.

"The military court in Gaza sentenced Mahmud Abu-Dahhan to five years imprisonment for membership in the outlawed Hamas movement. Abu-Dahhan recruited the murderers of IDF soldiers Ilan Sa'adon and Avi Sasportas into the Hamas movement."

A report by Ron Kampeas in Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 21 November on page 10 states that "Border Police and youths clashed in the East Jerusalem suburb of Suwana yesterday.

"A Border Police patrol came under attack from stone-throwing youths in the Mount of Olives area suburb yesterday afternoon, and responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. One of the youths tossed a tear gas grenade back at the patrol.

"Police often leave unexploded tear gas grenades behind after clashes in Arab areas of East Jerusalem, the police spokesman said. 'The grenades roll away and the Arab kids collect them for future use.'

"Palestinian sources said police teargassed residential areas in the neighborhood after the attack, and conducted house-to-house searches for the rioters.

"A Border Police patrol in Abu-Tor used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwing youths at a road block on the main shopping street. One masked youth was arrested.

"An Israeli owned commercial vehicle was torched before dawn in Silwan in East Jerusalem. Fire department investigators determined that the arsonists smashed the windshield and poured flammable liquid inside the vehicle.

"Palestinian sources reported that residents of Bayt Hanina and Shu'fat were 'impressed' by a new painting machine used by the Border Police yesterday to black out the nationalist graffiti painted on walls during last week's 'Palestine Day'."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 21 November in a page 2 report by military correspondent On Levi reports that "Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, ordered the removal of concrete blocks placed at the entrance to Tulkarm as a planned permanent roadblock. Under orders from the defense minister, Mordekhay decided to stop all work on the project."

Trade Deficit Up 44 Percent to $2.81 Billion

TA0911122090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 90 p 15

[Report by economics staff]

[Excerpts] Israel's trade deficit has grown 44 percent to $2.81 billion, since the beginning of the year, primarily due to the sharp rise in the price of imported oil products, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Over the last two months alone, the trade deficit has risen 13 percent compared to the July-August period.

October Tourism Said 'Worst' in Nation's History

TA1211104290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Text] Last month was the worst October in the history of foreign tourism to Israel—except for October 1973, the month of the Yom Kippur War. Only 49,000 tourists arrived by air compared with 95,000 in October last year and 104,000 in October 1987, which was a record year.

But although the Ministry of Tourism recognizes that there is a crisis at the moment, it claims that is completely unfair to focus on one particular month. Ministry spokesman Yosef Shoval says figures for January-October 1990 show a three percent increase in visitors to the country in comparison with the comparable period in 1989.

October Consumer Price Index Up 1.7 Percent

TA1511164690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The consumer price index rose 1.7 percent in October. House maintenance expenses contributed 0.4 percent, and clothing and footwear expenses contributed 0.3 percent to the rise. Housing costs registered a relatively slight increase, contributing 0.3 percent to the rise.

Our economic affairs reporter Menahem Friedman notes that the annual rate of inflation currently stands at 20 percent, slightly lower than last year's rate. The consumption basket of an average urban family currently stands at 3,540 Israeli shekels. [passage omitted]

Ads Urge Anti-Bush Protests 22, 23 Nov

JN2111083990

[Editorial Report] Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 21 November carries on its back page the following advertisement entitled "Popular Anger March Against Bush's Visit:"

"On the occasion of U.S. President George Bush's visit to some Arab capitals, its serious effects on the future of our causes and vital interests, and its serious dimensions in terms of creating a reactionary Arab-American-Zionist alliance to confront the peoples of the Arab nation, the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) calls on all the brave Jordanian people to express protest and anger against this visit by starting demonstrations in all areas and places. The demonstrations should proceed to the Grand al- Husayni Mosque [downtown Amman], where they will gather after the Friday prayers on 23 November, and leave in a mammoth march to the Hashemite Square [a few hundred meters from the mosque].

"Let this march be our people's expression of protest against the imperialist and Zionist designs, in support of fraternal Iraq and the brave intifadah, and to defend the homeland."

Another advertisement on the same page entitled "No to Bush's Visit; Appeal To Stop Work" reads as follows:

"In protest of President Bush's provocative visit to our Arab region and as an expression of our rejection of the presence of the American forces on the chaste soil of the Arabian Peninsula to prepare for an aggression against Iraq, the Jordanian Popular Committee to Support Iraq and Confront the Foreign Aggression appeals to our people, their political and popular forces, trade and professional unions, and various public figures in the Kingdom to observe a 15-minute comprehensive stoppage of all work and movement at 1200 on Thursday, 22 November 1990.

"[Signed] The Executive Committee of the Jordanian Popular Committee to Support Iraq and Confront Foreign Aggression."

Column Terms Bush Visit 'Defiance' of Arabs

JN2011151790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Nov 90 p 18

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Bush's Visit to Our Country Is a Provocation and Transgression"]

[Text] In his final days, when Nixon (one of Bush's predecessors) was suffering from the stupors of political death after the Watergate scandals, he visited the Middle East. He was received in Cairo by Anwar al-Sadat and over a million Egyptians, who believed that the United States held 99 percent of the cards and that it could use just one of these cards to force Israel to submit to the resolutions of the Security Council and international legitimacy.

However, the popularity that President Nixon enjoyed in Cairo was of no use to him in Washington, where the stench of the U.S. Presidential institutions was blocking noses as the Presidential scandals were being revealed.

Under normal circumstances, we would have welcomed the U.S. President's visit, were he coming to extend the hand of friendship to the Arab nation and to announce that he had abandoned the strategic ally and the special relationship that binds him with the racist Israeli entity—the fortress of aggression against Arab land and human rights.

However, under present circumstances, Bush's visit represents blatant defiance of the Arab nation, because his forces are occupying the holy Arab lands and threatening to occupy another Arab land and destroy an Arab country because it manifests the center of Arab liberation.

Bush is coming here to inspect the invasion troops and to appear on the American television screen while shaking the hands of Arab leaders who are his followers and who receive orders from him to delude American public opinion into believing that he is a guest of honor in the Arabian desert and not a wicked aggressor who has come to control Arab wealth and break the neck of the Arab nation.

President Bush's visit this week is a provocation of Arab feelings and a violation of their dignity. It is an act of defiance of pan-Arab honor. No doubt the Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf will express in various ways their disgust over this visit and their fury over the spiteful visitor.

Zionist propaganda organs in the United States said President Bush made a mistake when he told his people that he would fight for the sake of, oil because Americans will not die for this reason. He committed an error when he said he would fight to defeat the aggressors. The world is full of aggressions, yet the Americans did not to go to war to save Tibet from China or Eastern Europe from the Soviet Union. He made a mistake when he said he would fight to restore the legitimate government to Kuwait, because he will not find one American ready to die for the sake of restoring the al-Sabah clan to the throne of Kuwait. Review THE NEW YORK TIMES issue of 13 November 90.

The Zionist propaganda organs who write the Jewish American newspaper columns have asked Bush to be frank with the U.S. people and tell them that war will take place to annihilate the Iraqi people, the Iraqi leadership, and Iraq's power. This is the real objective of war for which Bush is feverishly preparing. Every Arab who participates in this preparation, or provides it with a cover, or even remains quiet about it, will be disgraced.

Solons Urge Official Protest to U.S. Embassy

JN2011173290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session today under Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat in the

presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and ministers. During the session, the House elected members of several House committees.

At the end of the session, the representatives were given the opportunity to speak for half an hour on any issue that concerns the citizens and the general situation.

Representative Nayif al-Hadid spoke about a memorandum presented by the National Bloc to the prime minister concerning surveillance by some embassies of the Jordanian borders and monitoring traffic movement on these border to assess to what extent Jordan is abiding by the economic boycott against sisterly Iraq. The memorandum asked the government to take all measures within the homeland's sovereignty to stop these violations and behavior.

Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, responded to this memorandum, noting that one of the foreign embassies, which is the U.S. Embassy, had asked the competent authorities to set up a medical group at the al-Ruwayshid area to receive its nationals, and that it was allowed to do so. He added that—later on—it appeared that this group was carrying out acts that were contrary and detrimental to sovereignty. The embassy was informed of this. The group was then withdrawn.

Masa'idah noted that, a long time ago, Jordan called for sending UN representatives to monitor Jordan's adherence to the UN resolutions.

A number of the representatives spoke on this subject and called for addressing an official protest against such practices, which violate diplomatic norms, saying that the accredited ambassadors to the Kingdom should abide by diplomatic regulations and norms observed in all countries.

Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat called on the House to convene next Saturday. It was also decided that the House committees meet on the same day to elect their chairmen and rapporteurs.

More on Criticism

JN2111085390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter 'Abdallah Hasanat]

[Text] Amman—In their first session after the opening of the 11th Parliament on Saturday, a number of deputies Monday launched a scathing attack against U.S. policies in the region and what they termed as "unacceptable behaviour" by the U.S. and British embassies in Amman.

At the same time, the government disclosed that Jordan had protested against the American embassy's stationing of personnel on the border with Iraq to observe and monitor Jordan's adherence to the U.N. embargo on Iraq.

"The embassy had dispatched a team of staff, including medical personnel, to the border to receive its citizens leaving Iraq and Kuwait. We found out later on that the team was performing tasks that violated Jordan's sovereignty. One month ago we asked the embassy to withdraw the team and they did," Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah said in reply to a letter that was sent to the government.

The letter, addressed to the prime minister and signed by 13 members of the National Bloc in the House, carried no date. It accused the embassies of the U.S. and Britain of having car patrols on the borders with Iraq monitoring Jordan's adherence to the embargo.

The letter urged the government "to take all necessary measures to put an end to such violations and behaviour."

Following Masa'idah's reply another five deputies also tackled the issue.

"This (U.S. action) should have been made public," deputy Bassam Haddadin said. He demanded that the government protest to the U.S. over this matter. "This is a shameful act on behalf of the embassy," he said.

Deputy Husni al-Shuyyab described the embassy's action as "boisterous and disrespectful and demanded that Jordan protest to the Americans.

"We should not even ask the U.N. to send observers," al-Shuyyab said in reply to Masa'idah who said that Jordan had requested the Security Council to send a team of observers to monitor the country's adherence to the embargo. "We will do the monitoring ourselves," al-Shuyyab insisted.

He also deplored what he called "American piracy and blockade" against Jordan and continued harassment of ships carrying goods bound for Jordan.

"What did the government do in this regard either diplomatically or at the U.N.?" he asked.

During the last three months the American warships carried out countless searches of ships bound for the port of Al-'Aqabah. Many ships were forced to turn back for allegedly carrying goods intended for Iraq. In one incident U.S. navy personnel were accused by the captain of a Cypriot registered ship of dumping steel pipes into the sea because they suspected the cargo was bound for Iraq.

The American ambassador in Amman also came under attack in the House Monday. Deputy Faris al-Nabusli said the ambassador recently visited Jordanian industrialists and "instigated them against the country's policies."

"The ambassador should only be received (by Jordanians) when it has to do with diplomatic work," al-Nabulsi demanded.

Deputy Mansur Murad asked that the U.S. ambassador's movements be restricted, as Americans restrict diplomats in the U.S.

Murad said the ambassador recently advocated in a lecture at the strategic studies centre that Jordan follow market economy in order to "ensure Jordan's continued link to the wheel of imperialism."

"This is a flagrant intervention in Jordan's internal affairs. Ambassadors, especially those hostile to the country, should not be allowed to move easily," Murad demanded.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has an office that regulates diplomats' movements but the office is frozen at the moment, he said.

Deputy Fakhri Qa'war, who recently toured the U.S. and delivered lectures on Middle East crisis and on Jordan's democratic process, reported to the House that he was subjected to "terrorism" while transiting London's Heathrow airport.

He asked that the government contact the British ambassador to protest.

Jordanians who, during the last three months, travelled to from or through London have complained of similar treatment.

In a letter addressed to the Jordan Times last month British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeves admitted that there were some mistreatment and promised to intervene with his government.

'Firm' Stand Commended

JN2111110690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Nov 90 p 16

["Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "We Salute, Support People's Representatives"]

[Text] We salute the members of the House of Representatives and press on their hands. We commend their alert stand toward the suspect moves and practices of the U.S. ambassador and the embassy staff in Amman.

The embassy activities and practices encroach, both directly and indirectly, on our national sovereignty and tarnish our independence. They are aimed to split our national unity, destabilize our peace and security, and spread anarchy and disorder in the country.

The U.S. Embassy has for long been exceeding its limits and has repeatedly interfered in our affairs. However, this time, and since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the embassy has added another task to its many tasks and has openly carried out this task in total disregard of the minimum requirements of diplomatic rules and principles and in excess of the tasks assigned to it.

What was mentioned by Salim Masa'idah, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, about the U.S. Embassy practices is only a single case of many more serious ones.

The U.S. Embassy flagrantly interfered in our political, economic, and social life and carried out large-scale activities within the people's ranks and in public gatherings. Indeed, the U.S. Embassy went so far as to meet with certain Jordanian figures, invite others, and hold suspect, private meetings in a desperate attempt to undermine the unity of the Jordanian position, instigate people against the government and the regime within the methods of pressure and blackmail which the U.S. Administration has been using since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. These methods have in fact been used since the Jordanian decision to sever connections with the West Bank and support the State of Palestine's declaration.

And while the Bush administration is free to take any stand vis- a-vis Jordan, which in turn is also free to adopt its own national and pan-Arab stands vis-a-vis the Arab nation, the U.S. Embassy has no right to go beyond its tasks, limits, and diplomatic duties and undertake the task of carrying out sabotage activities against Jordan and the Jordanian people.

Belated as it is, the House of Representatives' stand demonstrates that in this country there are vigilant eyes and alert men who monitor, watch, and take stands or make appropriate decisions against parties that attempt to undermine and sabotage.

We demand that a firm and appropriate stand be adopted against the U.S. Embassy practices, staying its hand and preventing it from continuing this conspiratorial role of sabotage against steadfast Jordan and its impregnable people.

Again we press on the hands of the people's representatives and salute them, wishing them further success in protecting this steadfast Arab bastion.

'Concrete' Action by UN Against Israel Urged

JN2011164390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] An official Jordanian source has said: The Israeli Government's decision to form a new portfolio on Jerusalem affairs to be headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, and his recent statements on maintaining control over the occupied territories in order to settle Jewish emigrants, once more clearly reveals the truth about the Israeli rejection of all peace efforts, and stresses Israel's expansionist nature and the aggressive mentality that directs its leading circles.

The source informed the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that the aforementioned decision, accompanied by Shamir's statements, must constitute a reason for those who are presumed to respect international legitimacy to take a decisive position on Israel's intransigence and prove that their concern for the sovereignty of international law is not selective, since legitimacy is an indivisible whole, and because it cannot continue to be dealt with on a selective basis or in accordance with whatever cover or interests it can extend to a given party

in a given situation. This also reveals the truth about Israel's recent commitments and pledges to the U.S. Administration in order to get additional economic aid.

The source added: It is time for the UN Security Council to deal effectively and seriously with Israel's insistence on rejecting its resolutions, and to put an end to this with concrete measures in accordance with the UN Charter and in a manner that ensures the implementation of these resolutions.

Shamir Statements Criticized

JN2011154890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel From the Sea to the River"]

[Text] In unmistakably clear, direct, and unequivocal terms, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced his government's intention to retain the occupied Arab territories for settling new Jewish immigrants and to establish an Israeli state with borders extending from the sea to the river.

Even though statements by successive Israeli Governments have shown that such intentions exist in the expansionist Zionist mentality, Shamir's recent statement was one of the few to express the true expansionist Israeli position and reveal the rationale behind Israel's persistent rejection of all peace overtures and initiatives.

These statements were significantly timed to coincide with the preoccupation of members of the Western alliance with massing troops and armies in the eastern part of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula and amidst enthusiastic support by Arab rulers and shaykhs for a military strike against the Iraqi people and Army with the aim of exacerbating the existing disparity in the current balance of power between the Arabs and Israel.

The articulation of this position by Yitzhaq Shamir has not surprised us, because he talked a few months ago of the need for establishing "Greater Israel." However, we are surprised by the fact that this statement has gone unheeded by the United States' Arab allies. Furthermore, we are surprised by the fact that this statement has failed to stir their political hostility or alert them to the dangers that would result from maintaining this alliance, which would support, one way or another the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States.

Hence, we do not address these expansionist statements by Shamir to the George Bush administration, which is preoccupied nowadays with escalating the war of words against fraternal Iraq. We rather address these statements to the fraternal Arabs who have mortgaged their destiny and the region's future to the open strategic Israeli-U.S. alliance.

Shamir's statement, unsurpassable in its eloquence, should sound the alarm for all Arabs. It should give a red light to the Arabs who have taken the wrong path, miscalculated, and consequently fallen into the lap of the United States, which has provided Israel with all the factors of military superiority, intransigence, expansionism, and aggression.

Therefore, we urge all Arab states to take Shamir's statements seriously. Similarly, we ask the brothers to conduct a serious reconsideration of the positions and policies that have allowed the Israeli prime minister to acquire added strength from the U.S. invasion troops stationed in the region—strength that has enabled him to make a public statement saying that Israel's borders extend from the sea to the river.

Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega Departs for Libya

JN2011220390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 20 Nov (PETRA)—Former President of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega left Amman today for Libya following a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of officials.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, minister of culture; and Dr. Khalid 'Ubaydat, director of the Political Department in the Foreign Ministry.

Iranian Hostages' Families Meet Officials

Meet Al-Hirawi

NC1711212290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The families of four Iranian hostages met with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning as part of their contacts with Lebanese officials.

Our correspondent in Beirut reported that the families of these prisoners asked the Lebanese president, in his capacity as the most senior official and the leading man in Lebanon, to act to have the hostages released. Al-Hirawi expressed his sympathy for the Iranian hostages' families and pledged to exert his efforts to have the hostages released quickly.

Meet Ja'ja'

NC2011175890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' received the families of the kidnapped Iranians at 1630 GMT today. The visit was part of the meetings they are holding with Lebanese officials and leading figures. It is known that the four kidnapped Iranians were kidnapped many years ago.

Fatah Movement, Hizballah Exchange Detainees

NC2011155590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement received five of its captive fighters who had been held by Hizballah from the Amal Movement in Sarba today. Hizballah received three prisoners who had been held by the Fatah Movement from Nasirite Popular Organization Leader Mustafa Sa'd in Sidon.

Further Exchanges

NC2111072090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Last night 65 prisoners from the Amal Movement and 31 from Hizballah were exchanged. An agreement to this effect was worked out by representatives from the Amal Movement, Hizballah, Syrian forces, and Iran at a meeting held in the Beau Rivage Hotel yesterday.

The pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement also exchanged prisoners with Hizballah yesterday.

Officials Continue Greater Beirut Plan Debate

Meeting Precedes Cabinet Session

NC2111064090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] A lengthy meeting was held at the Presidential Palace prior to the Cabinet meeting yesterday. Present at the meeting were President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, Minister George Sa'adah, Lebanese Forces Command members Nadi al-Sukkar and George Kassab, as well as Alfred Madi, George Khazin, and Rafiq Khuri.

The meeting is expected to produce positive steps today, including the handing over of all of the party offices in the two al-Matn regions to the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces. The Lebanese Forces shall adopt measures to facilitate the implementation of Greater Beirut after an agreement was reached to the effect that units from the Sarba barracks will be responsible for security inside al-Ashrafiyah. The 2d Brigade shall be in charge of security at the entrances to the area including Nahr al-Mawt, Fiat, and Salome, while the Sarba units shall control the Hotel Dieu crossing point and Hayy al-Sirryan. All units inside al-Ashrafiyah shall be under the command of Colonel Wahbah Qaslay.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces withdrawal of their units and weapons from al-Ashrafiyah shall begin and will be completed within 48 hours.

Statement on Cabinet Meeting

NC2011184090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Statement by Information Minister Edmond Rizq following an extraordinary session of the Lebanese Cabinet on 20 November—recorded]

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and attended by His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss. The Council reviewed the dates and measures pertaining to the decision it adopted at a previous session regarding the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan.

The Council of Ministers emphasized its unchanging position on completing this plan. In view of certain developments, the Council decided to remain in open session in order to take appropriate action. The date to which the Council of Ministers is committed and for which the Lebanese people are waiting is still in force, and there is no room to cast doubt on it. Any delay results from the wish to strengthen this step so that it will be decisive with regard to restoring security and confidence for all Lebanese citizens.

We wish to recall that the Greater Beirut step is merely an initial step which will be completed in the various parts of the homeland so that no area will remain outside the sphere of the state's authority and sovereignty and the rule of law.

The Lebanese people's confidence in their unified Army and their legitimate constitutional institutions is a major incentive for the Government to continue performing its tasks and fulfilling the people's aspirations.

Al-Huss Reaffirms Plan

NC2011202590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has stressed that the Greater Beirut plan will be implemented. He indicated that the current delay will not change the outcome and that the march will forge ahead.

Lebanese Forces Agree To Withdraw From Beirut

NC2111122890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The implementation of Greater Beirut has been delayed for only a few hours, thanks to the state and the government efforts toward the various parties concerned.

The Lebanese Forces agreed today to leave their positions in Beirut and hand them over to the Lebanese Army, thus Greater Beirut has become a reality. This step has put an end to the deadlock hindering the government's plan to reunify the capital.

While the Lebanese Forces' media underlined the presence of positive elements in the recent exchanges on Greater Beirut, Lebanese Forces officials told REUTER today that it has been agreed to eliminate all the obstacles that had postponed their withdrawal from Beirut. They said that an agreement was reached on all aspects of the obstacles delaying the establishment of Greater Beirut.

The Lebanese Forces' officials added that steps will be taken in the al-Matn regions today so that the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangists will regain their offices and all violations will cease. When this operation has been successfully carried out, the Lebanese Forces will start to withdraw from al-Ashrafiyah and hand it over to the Lebanese Army.

Defense Ministry Disavows Mansur's Interview

NC2111074990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The office of Defense Minister Albert Mansur has issued the following clarification:

Yesterday certain media published a Gulf newspaper interview with the defense minister. The interview mentioned certain remarks about a date for implementing Greater Beirut. The remarks are groundless as the defense minister has not granted an interview to the newspaper in question.

The Manama-based newspaper had cited Defense Minister Mansur as saying that the Greater Beirut plan will be implemented before the end of this month.

Phalangists To Take Over Offices in Al-Matn

NC2111071390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Press reports today said that the implementation of Greater Beirut will begin soon. The Phalangist Party will first take over all of its offices in the two al-Matn regions today.

Al-Hirawi, Patriarch Sfayr Discuss Developments

NC1811102690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning met with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr in Bkirki and discussed with him the latest developments in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Presidential adviser Faris Buwayz and General Ibrahim Tannus.

President al-Hirawi arrived at the patriarchate in Bkirki shortly before 0930 today and attended the Mass at which Patriarch Sfayr officiated.

In his Sunday sermon, the patriarch said that there are some who incorrectly read the new pact. He hoped that this pact will be read in a manner which would guarantee the country's special characteristics that distinguish it from other countries. He affirmed that the loss of these characteristics will end the justification for the existence of this country. He defined these characteristics as freedom, democracy, pluralism, openness to the world, respect for human rights, and coexistence on an equal basis.

Al-Hirawi Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

NC2111091890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi this morning. The message was forwarded by Libyan Ambassador 'Ashur al-Furtas during his meeting with the president today.

Al-Husayni Meets With Khaddam in Damascus

NC2011154190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has met in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-halim Khaddam to discuss developments in Lebanon.

Minister Nabih Barri has returned from Damascus where he held a series of contacts on the situation in Lebanon.

Birri Says Army Must Safeguard Security

NC2011174090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Amal Movement Leader Minister Nabih Birri returned from Damascus last night. In a statement today

he said: "No one is allowed to undermine the government and state. The militias must have a sense of national responsibility, refrain from vituperations and the settling of accounts, and give the Army the chance to safeguard security on the basis of a comprehensive and integrated security plan."

Birri added: "We reject the policy pursued by some in drawing a distinction between Army brigades."

PSP Urges Government Action Against Forces

NC2011134990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has reiterated its call to the legitimate government to act swiftly and decisively against all obstructive attempts and blackmail maneuvers in order to prove its credibility and ability to benefit from the Syrian, Arab, and international support.

The PSP Political Bureau's statement referred to its previous calls for decisive action against practices that stall the establishment of Greater Beirut. It asked: Why continue to succumb to the Lebanese Forces' blackmail and conditions?

Interrogations Reveal 'Awn Officers' Involvement

NC2011085790 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 19 Nov 90 p 7

[Text] Ongoing interrogations of a number of officers involved in Michel 'Awn's rebellion have uncovered a series of explosions and assassinations carried out by officers of the Deuxieme Bureau [intelligence section of the Lebanese Army] against individuals, politicians, and party officials. Among these operations was the assassination of late President Rene Mu'awwad, the attempt on Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss' life, and the booby-trapped car explosion in Bi'r al-'Abd in which over a hundred were killed and hundreds more wounded.

The prime suspects in these operations are officers 'Amir Shihab, 'Adil Sasin, and Salah Mansur.

'Adil Sasin, the most junior of these officers, took refuge with 'Awn at the French Embassy on 13 October 1990.

Al-Shar' Conveys Message to Mubarak, Returns

JN2011184590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this afternoon after conveying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning to resume talks on topics raised last night.

Al-Shar' was seen off at Cairo airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majd, senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials, Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Daruish, and the embassy staff.

Al-Asad Said To Seek Bush Clarification

JN2011193690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned from informed Egyptian sources that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during their meeting yesterday an oral message from President al-Asad asking Egypt to ask U.S. President Geroge Bush during his coming visit to Cairo about the recent U.S. moves to obtain a Security Council resolution allowing the use of military force and whether the adoption of such a resolution would mean waging real war against Iraq. The message also asks for discussion of the possibile effects of the Iraqi military reaction on the security of other Arab countries if military operations erupt in the region. The message stresses that Iraq now possesses dangerous destruction weapons that could affect the security of some countries in the region.

The Syrian foreign minister stressed tha need for the U.S. Administration to hold consultations with the concerned Arab countries before embarking on any military action against Iraq. He pointed out that his country rejects any military plan that depends on Arab forces. Syria also asked Egypt to make efforts with the U.S. Administration to persuade it to deliver the arms discussed during the visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the region.

Saudi Foreign minister Sa'ud al-Faysal sent a message to his Egyptian counterpart yesterday. He stressed that Saudi Arabia will present a certain view to President Bush on ending the Gulf crisis peacefully and that this view will have a specified time limit.

Khaddam Confers With Lebanon's Al-Husayni

JN2011154290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 0930 today Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Their talks dealt with the latest developments of the situation in Lebanon, the steps agreed on with regard to the plan to establish Greater Beirut, and measures taken by Lebanon to follow up on the implementation of the national charter.

Press Comments on Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Talks

JN2111091490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In their comments and editorials, today's newspapers dealt with the Lebanese situation and the state's determination to continue the march of salvation that has begun to build a new, unified, and liberated Lebanon.

The newspaper TISHRIN says in its comment: Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi held talks on the Lebanese situation and the measures to implement the Greater Beirut Plan and the future steps of the national accord march. Consultations between the two presidents have become customary, especially since such consultations are successful in finding solutions to the pending problems and in surmounting obstacles facing the legitimate government's efforts to spread state sovereignty. President al-Hirawi expressed thanks and appreciation for Syria's fraternal help. Leader al-Asad stressed Syria's firm decision to support the legitimate government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation and to restore normal life to that fraternal country.

In its editorial on the serious efforts to achieve accord, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Consultations and contacts in Lebanon have been intensified to end the abnormal situation and to achieve accord, and consequently to put an end to those who once again try to disrupt the accord march, which has made advanced progress. It has become clear that in order to spread full state control over all areas, it is necessary to secure certain conditions and means. This necessitates leaving aside personal and sectarian interests and giving priority to the homeland's interests in all fields. This is in addition to the fact that all sides should be convinced that disbanding militias and handing over weapons, whether light or heavy weapons, to the legitimate government have become indisputable issues, especially since they constitute a practical prelude for the aspired solution.

NPF Statement Stresses Palestinian Cause, Peace

JN1511180490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] issued a statement today on the 20th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement, led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. The statement asserted that the Corrective Movement was not an ordinary event in the history of the homeland and the

nation, but a response to national and pan-Arab needs and a response to the call of the Ba'th and the masses. [passage omitted]

The statement said that our people have understood the Corrective Movement since the first day and granted it their confidence, love and support. The statement added that one of the major objectives of this movement was the realization of Arab unity because it is the road to achieving all the objectives of Arab struggle. The Corrective Movement has also regarded the Palestine question as one of its major interests as it is the central issue to which all Arab struggle should be devoted. Thus, its support for this cause has been unlimited. This support has also been expressed in various forms through which the land of Palestine was baptized with Syrian Arab blood. The Corrective Movement also extended to the intifadah all the factors of strength and long life. [passage omitted]

The statement praised the help and assistance Syria has extended to Lebanon to safeguard its Arabism and unity. Syria has defended Lebanon the way it defends itself and stood against all harm caused to Lebanon. Syria, moreover, stood against the conspiracies to partition Lebanon, supported the al-Ta'if document, and sided with the legitimate government to enhance its ability to face and defeat rebellion.

The statement added that Syria has made tremendous efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and face the challenges of the age and realize development, progress, and prosperity. For, when the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait took place, it was Syria's pan-Arab commitment that raised its political decision to the level of its pan-Arab responsibilities. It was also the reason that made it advocate, through its great leader Hafiz al-Asad, the call of reason and conscience to use the language of dialogue instead of fire in order to contain and block the crisis so as to safeguard Iraq and Kuwait and protect the Arab nation from dangers and prevent the disaster. [passage omitted]

Economic Cooperation Protocols Signed With USSR

JN1911195790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA)—Syria and the Soviet Union signed three economic protocols here today. The protocols deal with developing and enhancing economic cooperation relations and trade between the two countries and opening new horizons in this area in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

A trade protocol for 1991 was signed between the two countries. The protocol was signed for Syria by Dr. Taha Bali, assistant minister of economy and foreign trade, and for the Soviet Union by Mordvinov, deputy minister of foreign economic relations.

The two sides also signed the minutes of the third session of the foreign trade subcommittee, which emanated from the joint Syrian-Soviet permanent committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation.

They also signed a project on the exchange of commodities between two countries for 1991 up until 1995.

In addition, the two sides signed a protocol for economic and technical cooperation to construct the Tishrin electric power plant.

TISHRIN Rejects Iraqi Summit Conditions

JN2111075090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial under the headline "The Miscalculations," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Baghdad set impossible conditions that have aborted the idea of the summit, and consequently, obstructed once again the mechanism for an Arab solution. It also adopted a similar stand toward the international peace efforts. It has thus closed all doors before saving Iraq from this serious impasse. It has also increased the possibilities of a terrible military confrontation and all its bloody effects.

TISHRIN adds: It has become clear to all sides that Iraq's involvement in this serious impasse undoubtedly affects its security and stability, and even its existence, and this is certainly not in the interest of this Arab country.

TISHRIN wonders: How then can we interpret the Iraqi regime's insistence on torpedoing all opportunities for a political solution and on pushing the situation toward a military catastrophe and suicide? TISHRIN answers: Lack of pan-Arab vision and sound thinking has led the Iraqi regime into the trap of miscalculations.

TISHRIN says: The invasion of Kuwait was a big strategic mistake, whose continuation will undoubtedly lead to a crushing catastrophe for the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular. False pride will change nothing.

TISHRIN emphasizes that it is still possible to find a way out of this impasse and it necessitates resorting to reason, logic, and pan-Arab interests, and eliminating the causes of the crisis. Only then will it be possible to avert the catastrophe and its serious dimensions.

Bangladesh

Assassination Attempted on Opposition Leader Zia

BK2011142890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Nov 20 (AFP)—An attack on the house and family of opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia, which coincided with a 24-hour anti-government strike here, may have been an assassination attempt, an opposition offical said.

"This could have been attempt on Begum Zia's life," said Salam Talkuder, secretary general of Begum Zia's Bangladesh Party (BNP).

Three intruders were escorted away by police after breaking into and ransacking Begum Zia's home and injuring her son as violence flared across the Bangladesh capital during the anti-government strike.

Her son Tareq Rahman was treated at a private clinic for bruises on his back after being repeatedly hit with a fat stick by one of the intruders, who identified himself as retired Colonel Rashid, party sources said.

A group of local and foreign reporters were turned away from the entrance to the compound where Begum Zia lives in an army-owned house, after being told it was a security area and the press was not permitted there. [passage omitted]

Vice President Moudud Ahmed and several ministers were held up in their offices for several hours Tuesday because demonstrating students threatened to attack them, official sources said.

Mr. Ahmed and at least two unidentified ministers were held up as they did not want to take chances after some bureaucrats were manhandled by student activists during the 24-hour strike period, the sources said.

"We are trying to leave as soon as things are better," one official said.

Student activists had stationed themselves around the high- security government secretariat complex since the start of the strike, determined not to let the government officials work in defiance of the stoppage.

Elsewhere, a five-year-old boy died in hospital after he was knocked down by a speeding police truck, doctors said, and a leftwing student leader was seriously injured in clashes with ruling party workers.

An office of the ruling Jatiya Party in the district of Motijheel was set ablaze by agitators and the party's Dhaka City office was attacked but police managed to turn away the protestors, witnesses said.

At least 40 people were injured, 25 of them with bullet wounds, when unidentified gunmen opened fire in two separate pro-strike processions in Western Rajshahi district, sources here said.

Four people were being treated at the Rajshahi Medical College hospital, the sources said, adding that a schoolboy who was shot in the neck was in a critical condition.

Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain warned at a rally in the outskirts of the capital that "if anybody disturbed the peace we have the means and power to tackle it." [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Day Celebration Pass Unmarred

BK2111061690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0530 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 21 (AFP)—Armed Forces Day celeberations took place in Bangladesh Wednesday after the mainstream opposition groups called off a planned nationwide strike.

The chief of staff of the army, navy and air force, Lieutenant-General Noor Uddin Khan, Air Vice Marshal Momtazuddin Ahmed and Rear Admiral Amin Ahmed Mostafa respectively, started the day by placing wreaths at a memorial dedicated to the soldiers who were killed during the Bangladesh war of independence from Pakistan in 1971.

On Saturday, the military said in a rare appeal to the opposition groups that unless they called off the strike planned for Tuesday and Wednesday it would interfere with Armed Forces Day.

The opposition responded by reducing the stoppage to 24 hours Tuesday.

During Tuesday's strike at least one boy was killed and 100 people injured, including the son of an opposition leader whose home was attacked.

The strike was part of the opposition's ongoing campaign to oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his eight-year-old government.

The two top opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said that they had nothing against the armed forces as "they are our brothers" and the agitation was only to oust the president.

Sheikh Hasina, for the first time in recent years, paid tribute in a statement published Wednesday to the war dead.

Mr. Ershad, a former general, is in the maldives for the summit of the Seven-Nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, became independent in 1971 after a nine-month war of secession against Islamabad.

Opposition Strike Peaceful

BK2011165090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The mainstream opposition political allliances and parties gave a countrywide 24-hour hartal [general

strike] call today, which passed more or less peacefully. During the time, they held separate rallies and brought out processions in Dhaka. The eight-party alliance held its rally at Bangabandhu Avenue, the seven-party alliance at Gulistan Crossing, while five-party alliance at [name indistinct]. Some of the political parties and groups, including Jamaat-i-Islami, also held rallies at different places in Dhaka today.

India

Ship Detained in Iraq Over Food Dispute

BK2011145690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 20 (AFP)—An Indian relief ship has been held at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr for more than two weeks after Baghdad demanded the vessel hand over surplus food supplies, informed sources said here Tuesday.

Vishwa Siddhi, with an unspecified number of crew and 14 Red Cross workers from India, has been detained since November 3, when it completed distributing food and medicines to Asian expatriates stranded in Iraq, the sources said.

Iraqi authorities demanded the handover of some 4,700 tonnes of food, mainly rice, left behind after the vessel had distributed 4,770 tonnes of relief material, including medicine.

Indian officials turned down the demand, saying it would be in violation of a United Nations embargo forbidding food deliveries to Iraq in response to its August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"They wanted the rice, now this was a demand we could not accept," said a source who asked not to be identified.

"The United Nations only gave us permission to distribute supplies to the nationals of other countries, not to those of Iraq. The question of handing over supplies to Iraq simply does not arise," the source said.

"We are trying to see now if we can leave behind a small team to look after the maintenance of the ship and bring back a majority of the crew by air," the source added.

Crew morale was reported to be low because of the uncertainty surrounding their return.

Vishwa Siddhi sailed from the southern Indian port town of Cochin on September 16 and docked at Umm Qasr on September 26. It was carrying 9,475 tonnes of relief material, including 9,116 tonnes of rice, to feed expatriates from India, the Philippines, Singapore and other Asian countries.

Further on Ship Holding

BK2011164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] India has made it clear that the question of handing over the remaining foodstuffs on board the Indian ship Vishwa Siddhi to Iraqi authorities does not arise as it will violate UN sanctions. Informed sources in New Delhi said today that by the 3d of this month, about 4,773 tons of foodstuffs were offloaded and distributed by Indian Red Cross team. The Iraqi authorities have now refused permission to the ship to leave Umm Qasr port without handing over the remaining 4,702 tons of foodstuffs, primarily consisting of rice to the Iraqi authorities. The sources pointed out that New Delhi has taken up the issue with Iraqi authorities both in Baghdad and New Delhi and discussions on the issue are continuing at the highest level.

Indians Scheduled To Leave Kuwait Via Iraq

BK2011160890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, Nov 20 (AFP)—Some 530 Indians who had been stranded in Kuwait are expected at Ruwayshid on the Jordanian-Iraqi border Wednesday and are to be flown home later in the day from Amman, a United Nations official said here Tuesday.

Gerhard Sliwik of the International Organization of Migrations [IOM] added that an an earlier group of 630 Indian refugees from Kuwait, most of whom arrived overland at the Ruwayshid border post east of here on Sunday, were flown home Monday on chartered airliners.

The Indian Embassy here said an estimated 130,000 Indians have now left Iraq and Kuwait via Amman since the Iraqi invasion of the emirate August 2.

Only 20,000 Indians remain in Kuwait, with 5,000 still in Iraq, according to diplomatic sources in Baghdad.

The IOM, according to Mr. Sliwik, has arranged flights home for 126,542 refugees of all nationalities since it started relief operations in Amman September 3.

Court Asked To Set Aside Bhopal Settlement

BK2011163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The Government of India today asked the Supreme Court to set aside the U.S. $470 million Bhopal gas disaster settlement. Making the stand of the government clear before the five-judge constitution bench, the attorney general, Mr. Soli Sorabji, said the settlement order should be set aside because while arriving at the settlement important information and material were not placed before the court. He also urged the bench to set aside the clauses relating to the grant of criminal immunity to the American multinational Union Carbide.

USSR's Ryzhkov Congratulates Chandra Shekhar

BK2011153190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has expressed the confidence that bilateral relations with India will further develop in the interests of the people of both the countries. In a message congratulating Mr. Chandra Shekhar, on his assuming office of the prime minister, the Soviet prime minister, Mr. Nikolay Ryzhkov, said that he is convinced that close interaction between the two countries in international affairs for the cause of stability and prosperity of all nations will accelerate the creation of a new world order based on the principles of the Delhi Declaration.

New Council of Ministers Sworn in 21 Nov

BK2111045290

[Editorial Report] Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi at 0330 GMT on 21 November relays live the swearing in ceremony of the new council of ministers headed by Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar at the Ashoka Hall of the President's House. At the onset, the video shows VIPs including Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal assembled in the glittering hall. At 0338 GMT, President R. Venkataraman arrives in the hall. An unidentified commentator immediately announces that there is some disturbance at the back of the hall. Unintelligible slogans are heard in the background.

At 0342 GMT, the President administers the oath of office and secrecy for each new member of the Union Council of Ministers either in Hindi or English with background noises continuing for about five minutes. The newly sworn members of the cabinet are:

Ministers—Vidhya Charan Shukla, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, Gyaneshwar Mishra, Yashwant Sinha, Raj Mangal Pandey, Hukumdev Narain Yadav, Kalyan Singh Kalvi, Manobhai Kotadia, Daulat Ram Saran, Ashoke Kumar Sen, Rao Birendra Singh, Satya Prakash Malaviya, Shakilur Rahman.

Ministers of State with Independent Charge— Mrs Maneka Gandhi, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Harmohan Dhawan.

Ministers of State—Subodh Kant Sahay, Bhakt Charan Das, Bhagya Gowardhan, Mrs Usha Singh, Sarwar Hussain, Ramjilal Suman, Jayantilal Birchandbhai Shah, Babanrao Dhakne, Kamal Murarka, Basevraj Patil, Lalit Vijay Singh, Ram Bahadur Singh.

Deputy Ministers—Digvijay Singh, Dasain Chaudhary, Shantilal Purshotamdas Patel, Jay Prakash.

The president is then seen congratulating the prime minister and the deputy prime minister and the newly sworn-in ministers.

Live relay concludes at 0430 GMT with the president's departure.

Guards Injure Journalists

BK2111055690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0545 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP)—Security officers guarding the presidential palace beat up journalists when they tried to enter the complex Wednesday to cover the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's 32-member cabinet.

At least seven reporters and photograhers were injured, three of them with bleeding wounds, as hundreds of guards used canes and fists to stop the journalists from entering Ashoka Hall— the ornate venue where hundreds of politicians had gathered to participate in the ceremony, witnesses said.

Journalists said the security forces attacked a group of 35 reporters and photographers who had arrived to cover the ceremony a few minutes after the officials sealed the main gates of the presidential palace.

At least one correspondent of an Indian newspaper was hospitalised with serious injuries, witnesses and reporters said.

New Cabinet Posts Awarded

BK2111083190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The Union Council of Ministers has been expanded. The much-awaited expansion came 11 days after the formation of the Chandra Shekhar government with the swearing in of 32 new ministers this morning. Thirteen of them are of cabinet rank, three ministers of state with independent charge, 12 other ministers of state, and four deputy ministers. The president, Mr. Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] before a distinguished gathering in the Ashoka Hall. With this, the strength of the Council of Ministers has gone up to 34.

The external affairs has been given to Mr. V.C. Shukla, while Mr. Yashwant Sinha is the new finance minister. The portfolios of other Cabinet ministers sworn in today are:

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy—commerce with additional charge of law and justice;

Mr. Gyaneshwar Mishra—railways;

Mr. Raj Mangal Pandey—human resource development;

Mr. Hukumdev Narain Yadav—textiles and food processing industries;

Mr. Kalyan Singh Kalvi—energy;

Mr. Manobhai Kotadia—water resources with additional charge of surface transport;

Mr. Daulat Ram Saran—urban development;

Mr. Ashoke Kumar Sen—steel and mines;

Rao Birendra Singh—food and civil supplies;

Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya—petroleum and chemicals and parliamentary affairs;

Mr. Shakilur Rahman—health and family welfare.

The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, who was sworn in on the 10th of this month, along with the prime minister, has been given agriculture and tourism.

Three ministers of state will have independent charge. They are: Mrs Maneka Gandhi—in charge of environment and forests; Dr. Sanjay Singh—communiations; and Mr. Harmohan Dhawan—civil aviation.

Other ministers of state and their portfolios are: Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay—home affairs and information and broadcasting; Mr. Bhakt Charan Das—railways; Mr. Bhagya Gowardhan—human resource development; Mrs. Usha Singh—tourism; Mr. Sarwar Hussain—food and civil supplies; Mr. Ramjilal Suman—railway and welfare; Mr. Jayantilal Birchandbhai Shah—agriculture and cooperation; Mr. Babanrao Dhakne—energy; Mr. Kamal Murarka—minister of state in the prime minister's office; Mr. Basevraj Patil—steel and mines· Mr. Lalit Vijay Singh—defense; Mr. Ram Bahadur Singh—rural development.

The four deputy ministers, who took oath today, and their portfolios are: Mr. Digvijay Singh—finance; Mr. Dasain Chaudhary—health and family welfare; Mr. Shantilal Patel—commerce; Mr. Jay Prakash—petroleum and chemicals.

No cabinet ministers have been appointed for home and defense. These will remain with the prime minister.

Asked whether the Cabinet is balanced, the prime minister said the south is very thinly represented and some more ministers will be inducted later.

Further on Ceremony, Protest

BK2111092990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The Union Council of Ministers has been expanded. The much-awaited expansion came 11 days after the formation of the Chandra Shekhar government with the swearing in of 32 new ministers this morning. Of them, thirteen are of cabinet rank, three ministers of state with independent charge, 12 ministers of state, and four deputy ministers. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] before a distinguished gathering in the Ashoka Hall. With this, the strength of the Council of Ministers has gone up to 34. [passage omitted]

The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent says the Chandra Shekhar ministry includes seven ministers of the former V.P. Singh government who had resigned and joined the Janata Dal-S. They are Mr. Gyaneshwar Mishra, Mr. Manobhai Kotadia, Mrs Maneka Gandhi, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, Mr. Bhakt Charan Das, Mrs Usha Singh, and Mr. Bhagya Gowardhan.

Our correspondent adds that all the ministers in the new Council of Ministers are from the Janata Dal-S with the exception of Dr. Subramaniam Swamy who is the working president of the Janata Party- JP. There are two women ministers in the new ministry.

The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar; the deputy prime minster, Mr. Devi Lal; chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat and other distinguished persons were present at the ceremony. Leaders of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and left parties were not present. The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi; and the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; were also not present.

Most of the press corps, including some cameramen, who were not allowed entry inside the Ashoka Hall for not reaching before the time fixed by Rashtrapati Bhavan later protested and shouted slogans. They complained that they were never given any specific time by Rashtrapati Bhavan to reach there for covering the ceremony. After intervention by Mr. Yashwant Sinha, the press was allowed entry but they continued their protest against the behavior of the security staff. When they continued slogan shouting even while the swearing-in ceremony was going on, they were pushed back and most of the pressmen, including photographers, walked out. Later, some newsmen complained to the prime minister about the difficulties experienced by them. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said Mr. Yashwant Sinha tried to intervene but the press did not listen to him. He also asked whether whatever the press did was correct.

In reply to a question, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said his council is not much balanced at present as the south is thinly represented. He said some more ministers will be inducted later from the supporting parties and others. He said for the present the strength of his Council of Ministers is enough to run the affairs of the government.

Shekhar Views Caste Wars, Poverty, Muslims

AU2011111890 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 19 Nov 90 pp 208-210

[Unattributed interview with Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar; place, date not given: "The Society Is Breaking Up"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Prime Minister, India is burning. Separatists kill because they want more autonomy. Muslims and Hindus kill each other as they have not done since independence was achieved; what is new is the war among the Hindu castes. Can you offer a solution for this mess?

[Shekhar] It is true that violence is common in many regions. The reason is a lack of trust, which we now have

to reestablish among all the people and among individual groups. This is difficult, but we cannot simply raise our arms to the heavens out of despair, we have to roll up our sleeves.

[DER SPIEGEL] How do you want to manage this in detail?

[Shekhar] We need cooperation among all groups of the population, in particular among the informed ones, those who are shaping opinion, in order to tackle the problems in all humility.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you not need more determination?

[Shekhar] Where it is needed, yes. But first of all we have to convince the people, with talks, compassion, and understanding.

[DER SPIEGEL] This sounds as if you wanted to put a healing hand on the injured Indian souls. Is this not too little in this situation?

[Shekhar] The Indian people are traditionally patient. They react to compassion or if one approaches them with dignity and honesty.

[DER SPIEGEL] In Kashmir Muslims want to leave India, in the Punjab Sikh terrorists want to leave India, the Muslims are supported by Pakistan. What do you want to do against this?

[Shekhar] I only say that Pakistan should not support any secessionist movements in our country, because this subcontinent is a region of poverty. If we fight among ourselves, we cannot fight against poverty. Any kind of confrontation would be suicide.

[DER SPIEGEL] It seems that your predecessor's announcement that a large number of posts in state enterprises will be reserved for members of low castes was suicidal. Do you plan to continue this?

[Shekhar] The matter has two sides. Even more than 40 years after independence Indian society is characterized by castes. Unfortunately, certain low castes are also economically at a disadvantage, they have long been exploited and oppressed. These social groups deserve preferential treatment; it is absolutely right to give them quotas.

[DER SPIEGEL] But this also gives rise to uprisings; protesters kill themselves and others. What went wrong?

[Shekhar] Before the government announced the coming into force of this recommendation, it should have known precisely what its specific actions would be—where it would provide jobs or reserve them. The bad thing about the current situation is that so far no one has received a job and no one has lost his job. But the people are already at each other's throats. This was a crime committed against society.

[DER SPIEGEL] How would you distribute the quotas?

[Shekhar] From two sides. Because on the one hand, people are discriminated because of their caste. On the other hand, upper strata of the caste system are also getting poorer because of the one-sided economic development in India. Therefore, we also have to keep an eye on their situation, we have to bring both sides of the problem together with more caution and care. Because of the collapse of law and order the poorer people always lose most.

[DER SPIEGEL] You want to please everybody, the lower and the upper castes. How do you manage this?

[Shekhar] We want to do something for the poor, but at the same time we do not want to destroy the social structures. By doing something for the economy, we logically also do something for the poor.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will you postpone the quota issue?

[Shekhar] Not at all, the plans just have to be implemented more sensibly and more efficiently, without hurting people's feelings. Poverty is poverty, regardless of the caste one belongs to. Above all there is social dignity, and this should be given in particular to the (casteless) untouchables and to India's tribespeople.

[DER SPIEGEL] All Indians have one thing in common: They have too many children. The population is increasing by 17 million per year, which intensifies the curse of poverty. What do you want to do against this?

[Shekhar] We must make people aware that with many children they are just producing even more poverty for themselves.

[DER SPIEGEL] Another wildfire, the bloody quarrel between Hindus and Muslims about the temple area of Ayodhya, could be solved only with the help of the army, but the fighting continues. How do you want to cope with that?

[Shekhar] I tell all people involved that any confrontation on this issue will make the entire society break up. We have to come to mutual understanding through dialogue. And if this is not possible, the laws of the land will have their say; after all, we have courts whose judgments are valid for everyone.

[DER SPIEGEL] How do you assess the fears of the Muslim minority of the Hindus?

[Shekhar] Indian society cannot survive if it is not able to understand and alleviate the fears of its minorities.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your government has the weakest base in parliament since India's independence. How long can it go on?

[Shekhar] The duration of a government is not a question of arithmetic but a question of efficiency and effectiveness. If we cannot achieve this, the people are free to demand new elections.

Prime Minister Reviews Punjab Situation

BK2011164990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister had directed that pressure may be kept up to contain terrorism in Punjab, while at the same time, employment programs and development schemes for the state should be implemented vigorously. Mr. Chandra Shekhar today reviewed the situation in the state at a high-level meeting attended among others by the governor, Mr. Virendra Verma; the chief secretary; and the director general of police. The review was undertaken in the wake of the recent spurt in violence and terrorist killings in the state. The prime minister directed that relentless pressure has to be kept up against the terrorists and law and order maintained at any cost. Mr. Chandra Shekhar also directed the state government to give the highest priority to tone up civil administration and ensure that genuine grievances of the people are redressed expeditiously.

Sikh Gunmen Kill 12 at Amritsar Liquor Store

BK2111010090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1702 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Amritsar, India, Nov 20 (AFP)—Three Sikh gunmen killed at least a dozen people and wounded seven more in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in the northern state of Punjab late Tuesday, police said.

The militants riding a two-wheeler opened fire indiscriminately with Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles outside a liquor store in Amritsar's Islamabad locality, killing nine.

While fleeing, they again opened up in the Chota Hairpur area of the city killing three more.

Police said seven more people were injured, four critically, in the worst such incident in this city for the last two years.

Security forces cordoned off the area before beginning a search for the attackers.

A further 21 people died in a number of separatist-linked incidents in Punjab in the last 24 hours, police and media reports said.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar on Tuesday directed the Punjab administration to take effective steps to curb the bloody independence campaign in the northern state, which has claimed more than 3,000 lives so far this year.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister Shekhar asked the Punjab administration to streamline itself and give more sophisticated weapons to security forces to tackle the militancy, officials said.

The meeting of senior Punjab civil and police officials, summoned to New Delhi by Mr. Shekhar to review the situation, noted that "trained agents from across the border" were creating violence in Punjab, officials said.

India accuses Pakistan of aiding the militancy. Islamabad rejects the allegation.

Four coaches of a local train bound for Amritsar were derailed when suspected militants blew up the tracks in the Tarn Taran District of Amritsar on Tuesday, injuring four passengers.

Suspected militants also stormed an Indian Government-owned bank in the Punjab town of Moga Tuesday and stole 580,000 rupees (33,000 dollars), PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] said.

A Punjab state police inspector killed a Sikh gunman inside a passenger bus when he and an associate tried to stop the bus on a highway, PTI said.

Sikh militants, campaigning since 1983 for an independent Sikh homeland, often stop buses travelling within the state and shoot Hindu passengers.

Four more suspected Sikh separatists died overnight in encounters with security forces during an intensified anti-militant drive following Saturday's massacre of 11 Hindu activists by Sikh assassins.

An indefinite curfew clamped in Gurdaspur town, the site of the massacre, remained in force Tuesday amid fears that a relaxation could lead to Hindu-Sikh clashes, pti said.

Sixteen more people including two brothers died in attacks blamed on Sikh militants in several Punjab districts in the past 24 hours, PTI said.

Tribal Militants Battling to Expel Settlers

BK2111030690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0242 GMT 21 Nov 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Ranchi, India, Nov 21 (AFP)—Tribal militants battling to expel settlers from this mineral-rich region are preparing for a showdown with Hindus who bitterly oppose job reservations for lower-caste Indians.

Local militant tribal groups have joined ranks to organise a pro-quota campaign amid fears that it could trigger a caste war in the volatile Chotanagpur region of eastern Bihar State where tribespeople are the majority.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM, Jharkhand Liberation Front), which claims thousands of members, has reportedly ordered smaller factions to support lower-caste Hindus, saying the job scheme will accelerate their own battle against settlers.

"If we have to kill for our rights then we will not hesitate," JMM activist Birsa Oraon said, adding that several smaller tribal groups of Chotanagpur, located on the hills of Bihar's south, have joined the sizzling campaign.

Militant activists in Jharkhand, or "land of the forests," launched their campaign in Chotanagpur in the early 1970s, calling settlers exploiters. They now hold three seats in the 545-seat federal parliament.

JMM is also demanding a greater tribal land spanning parts of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal states with exclusive timber and mining rights in the region.

"Our cause is similar to that of the lower castes and we have joined ranks to break the monopoly of the upper castes on government jobs and the exploitation of our beloved region," said firebrand JMM leader David Bhanj.

He was referring to bitter opposition from upper castes to the scheme, announced August 7, which would reserve 49.5 per cent of government jobs for the 52 per cent of India's 850 million people identified as lower castes.

"They (the upper castes) have enjoyed a monopoly on power for so long that they have forgotten to share it with us, and if they can take to arms, then why not us," he said.

More than 50 upper caste students have died and an equal number have been injured in a suicide wave to protest the scheme in the last two months.

Hundreds of others have been injured in anti-quota violence, especially in India's north.

But in the South and in Bihar, people have demanded a quick implementation of the scheme, ordered by former premier Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

General strikes, clashes and rallies have become frequent in Ranchi, formerly a British summer retreat, and JMM activists armed with bows, spears and swords are often seen moving freely in the region, which meets a major chunk of India's coal and mineral needs.

District administrators in Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Jamshedpur accuse tribespeople of fuelling a caste-war to consolidate their own campaign against people who settled here since the region's industrialisation in the early 1960s.

The Bihar State government of Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav also backs the job quota scheme despite sporadic incidents of caste violence.

"If a (caste) war begins here, all hell will break loose," said a senior administrator, who added that policing of the region was inadequate to halt tribal-led violence in the area, already in the grip of Hindu-Moslem clashes.

Hundreds of paramilitary troopers, backed by the elite Bihar Military Police, are currently stationed in Ranchi and adjoining areas.

Local administrators have been armed with powers to impose a curfew or shoot rioters on sight, sources said.

Upper castes have not yet publicly protested the job scheme here, apparently fearing retribution.

But officials said influential and ruthless Bihar landlords, mostly upper castes, have private armies that could begin a war themselves.

"A single massacre of people belonging to either caste is enough to trigger a war," the administrator said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Wins Confidence Vote

BK2011152990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has won the vote of confidence in the state assembly with the support of the Congress-I and the Bahujan Samaj Party. Earlier today, noisy scenes marked the second day of the special session convened to enable Mr. Yadav to prove his majority on the floor of the house. The speaker had to adjourn the house twce in the morning amidst shouting of slogans and counterslogans. Later, when the house was adjourned for the second time at noon, fist-fights and scuffles broke out between members of the rival factions of the Janata Dal.

Speaking on the motion, Mr. Yadav accused the former prime minister of having conspired with the BJP and the VHP [Bharatiya Janata Party and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad] to topple his government over the Ayodhya temple issue. He said Mr. V.P. Singh did not make any serious effort to resolve the dispute. The remarks provoked dissident Janata Dal legislators, raising slogans against the chief minister. The treasury benches immediately started counterslogans ensuing pandemonium and frequent interruptions in the chief minister's speech.

The leader of the opposition in the assembly, Mr. N.D. Tiwari, urged the government to immediately start a meaningful dialogue for settling the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. Participating in the debate on the confidence motion, Mr. Tiwari said all religious leaders should sit together and work out an acceptable solution.

Commentary Reviews Shekhar's Economy Speech

BK2011145790 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Commentary by G. Srinivasan of PRESS TRUST OF INDIA]

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar's piety observation in his maiden broadcast to the nation on Saturday [17 November] night that the economy is in bad shape is really an understatement of the state of the country's economy. The long shadow cast by the Gulf crisis on the Indian economy coupled with political instability and major policy delays, particularly in regard to agriculture and industry, are only the outer manifestation of a profound structural crisis that is plaguing the economy. At definite point of the 1990-91 fiscal year, macro economic fundamentals are anything but gloomy.

Inflation, adverse balance of payment position, whopping budgetary deficit, runaway government expenditure, and slowdown in industrial growth are the visibly sore spots of the economy that deserve urgent treatment. It is indeed welcome to hear from the prime minister that austerity should now become a way of life in India if the economy is to be brought back to noninflationary growth path without any further loss of time. This is all the more crucial now than ever before because the country's foreign exchange reserve has precipitously fallen in recent months, raising alarm signals about sustaining development without succumbing to a debt trap, both external and domestic.

With the acceleration of the inflationary pressures, industrial slowdown, and worsening of the budgeting position of the government, the inauguration of the Eighth Plan in April this year seems to be a nonstarter. Although the National Front government's maiden and only budget presented by the then finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate, promised to contain the budgetary deficit at rupees 70,260 million in the current fiscal year, signs are strong that budgetary deficits might balloon to a much higher and intractable figure unless major investments get postponed or pruned of inflation.

Industrial production which recovered remarkably in the last quarter of 1989-90, that is January to March this year, and kept up a rate of 13 percent growth between April and July has began to flag. The growth in the current year is likely to show an overall decline. Import curbs warranted by the foreign exchange position, fall in the output of engineering and some of the infrastructural sectors, and transport bottlenecks have all compounded the crises in industrial sector, thus markedly impending its growth. What is worrisome is that the slowdown in industrial production would exact its toll on exports on which a lot of hope was pinned in retrieving the balance of payment situation.

Considering the commerce ministry's export target of rupees 375,000 million, the odds are heavily against. Unless conscious and extraordinary efforts are put in along with a sound policy package to concentrate on thrust areas of exports, the export target would not be feasible to fulfill. The strains imposed on the foreign trade balance would not be easy to overcome even if a major and frantic export offensive is launched in the remaining few months of the current fiscal year. As such, the external imbalance cannot be got over without some immediate assistance from outside. Whether such assistance is to be from the International Monetary Fund, IMF, under its contingency compensatory financing facility or any other multilateral financial institution like the World Bank has to be decided by the new government before it runs out of options to overcome the grave external imbalances. A decision in this regard brooks no delay because of the sharp curtailment in total concessional aid to India and the (?growing) cost of commercial borrowing. Economists of repute have expressed the fear that the country's balance of payment position would worsen by at least $3 billion as a result of the Gulf crisis, even assuming that the spot price of crude oil would average at $25 a barrel. All told, the health of the economy could be (?nursed) back to normalcy if right efforts are made in major thrust areas of employment, agriculture, fiscal stability and balance of payment. The prime minister has aptly struck the note when he announced in his broadcast that the intrinsic vitality of our people and vitality of our economic structure would enable us to bring the country out of the muddy mire of misery and misfortune. The priorities of the government are clear, especially on a price front and in revamping the public distribution system to help poor people.

Iran

Developments in Exchange of POW's With Iraq

Daily Release of 100 From 21 Nov

NC1911220790 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov 19 (AFP)—Iran has decided to release 100 Iraqi POWs each day, starting Wednesday [21 November], as a unilateral gesture of goodwill, the head of an Iranian commission on prisoners from the Gulf war announced here Monday.

Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran also said in an interview with KAYHAN newspaper that Iraq and Iran had agreed to release more than 300 prisoners who were convicted while in captivity.

Iran's initiative to free an additional 100 prisoners per day was designed "to encourage Iraq to settle the dossier of the POWs," Mr. Nazaran told the evening newspaper.

An Iraqi government spokesman said meanwhile that 239 Iranian POWs convicted in Iraqi tribunals would be released Wednesday, while Mr. Nazaran said Iran would free 79 convicted Iraqi prisoners this week.

Mr. Nazaran represents his country in a tripartite commission on POWs, which groups Iran, Iraq and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The agreement to release POWs convicted in captivity was reached during a landmark two-day visit to Baghdad last week by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Prisoner exchanges between Iran and Iraq started on August 17—two years after the two countries began observing a cease-fire in their eight-year war—but were halted without explanation a month later.

Some 78,000 POWs from an estimated total of around 100,000 had been released since a mid-August initiative by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn accepting Iran's peace terms.

An aide to Mr. Nazaran said the two countries had also exchanged the remains of 4,000 dead fighters. Iran has

however accused Iraq of holding a "large number" of prisoners of war who were never officially registered.

Referring to a dispute over the former Iranian oil minister, Mohammad Javad Tondguyan [name as received], also among the POWs, Mr. Nazaran spoke of "irrefutable proof at the United Nations and the ICRC" showing that the minister was still alive.

Iraq maintains that Mr. Tondguyan died of ill health while in captivity.

Exchanges Carried Out 21 Nov

LD2111112890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] On the basis of the new agreement between Iran and Iraq, 238 POW's returned to the embrace of the Islamic homeland on 21 November.

According to our reporter, simultaneous with the arrival of the POW's to the Islamic homeland, a group of 179 Iraqi POW's will be sent to their country by the Islamic Republic of Iran on an Iraqi plane.

The report says that 79 of the released Iraqi POW's were convicted of criminal offenses but were pardoned by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our reporter adds that the problem of missing Iranians will be followed up by our experts on the technical committee for peace negotiations.

According to this report, upon the arrival of the POW's at Mehrabad Airport, the national anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran was played by the Armed Forces band of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The POW's were officially greeted by a group of clergy, Armed Forces officials, representatives of the headquarters for POW affairs, and airport authorities.

Velayati, Goulding Discuss UNIIMOG Duties

LD2011133790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN deputy secretary general for special political affairs, conferred yesterday afternoon with Foreign Minister Velayati. At this meeting Mr. Goulding conveyed the greetings of the UN secretary general and then referred to the current situation and operation of the UN cease-fire observation forces, UNIIMOG, saying that the purpose of his visit to the region is to talk to Iran and Iraq and to obtain their views on the question of extending duration of UNIIMOG's mission.

Mr. Velayati emphasized the need for setting down precisely what the conditions of UNIIMOG's duties are at the present juncture and the need for those forces to carry out their mission fully in accordance with the Security Council's mandate.

Velayati Briefs Majles Commission on Iraqi Talks

LD1911112790 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday [19 November] briefed Foreign Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) on the outcome of his last week visit to Iraq and talks with high-ranking Iraqi officials. During the session, also attended by 50 Majles deputies, views were exchanged on recent developments in the Persian Gulf region. Velayati made an analysis of the situation in the region and outlined Iran's stand in this connection.

Velayati heading a delegation arrived in Baghdad on November 14 on a two-day official visit where he discussed implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, Tehran-Baghdad ties and the Persian Gulf crisis. He met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in which the two sides announced readiness to eliminate the remaining obstacles hindering establishment of a lasting peace.

Ministry Issues Statement on Human Rights Report

LD2111114890 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement Tuesday [20 November] said that the recent report of the special representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission on Iran was not reflective of the real situation in Iran due to his unfamiliarity with Islamic judicial laws and the Islamic Republic system. The statement said that the report by Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, like his previous report, included both positive and negative points.

The El Savadoran lawyer visited Iran October 8 to 16, his second this year.

"It was expected that the political pressures exerted by certain Western countries and the atmosphere created by (Iranian) terrorist grouplets outside the country would not compell Mr. Galindo Pohl to prepare a report contrary to his observations and to the existing realities in Iran."

The statement stressed that Pohl's visit to Iran was aimed at investigating major allegations regarding violation of human rights in Iran such as willful and mass executions, execution of political prisoners and torture. However, it added, both his previous and present reports are indicative of the fact that such allegations are baseless.

But, the statement continued, due to the fact that certain countries are willing to abuse the report as a means to exert political pressure on the Islamic Republic, the U.N. envoy has prepared a report which is critical in essence. Since he had no evidence to prove the authenticity of the major accusations against Iran raised in the report, he has kept silence and inevitably has laid emphasis on

trival and unimportant issues which can easily be magnified in any country of the world.

"Parts of Galindo Pohl's report, due to his lack of adequate knowledge on Islam's legal regulations and of the Islamic Republic's laws, could not be considered as truly reflective of the situation in the Islamic Republic," the Foreign Ministry statement added. Stressing that this unfamiliarity with the Islamic legal procedure is evident in both his reports, it said that the Islamic Republic is fully prepared to expand its cooperation in launching constructive studies and debates on Islamic legal system and welcomes comparative studies on human rights from Islamic and Western perspectives.

In the meantime, Iran totally rejects any political misuse of the human rights concept or any recommendation by the special envoy or by the advocates of the Western culture calling on Iran to ignore Islamic Shari'a percepts, stressed the statement. It pointed out that Islam campaigns against social vice, whereas the Western culture allows such practices on the basis of freedom.

The statement further considered as ridiculous claims that the press is controlled since the paper needed by the press is distributed by the government, a move which affects the freedom of expression. Equally ridiculous are claims that the minorities in Iran are insecure. Resorting to such claims as means of exerting political pressure, is in no way acceptable by the Islamic Republic of Iran, it stressed. Furthermore, it added, Iran has always strived for a lofty society far from any exertion of pressure and social discirmination with no compromise on execution of unquestionable Islamic laws.

The statement in conclusion called on the U.N. envoy not to insist on imposing on the Islamic Republic of Iran patterns which are incompatible with the Islamic values.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Al-Iryani Visits

Arrives in Tehran

LD1911180590 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Iran and Yemen will discuss ways of finding a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis "away from foreign meddlings and based on international rules," Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said here today.

He told reporters upon arrival at Mehrabad Airport that Yemen's ties with the Islamic Republic are growing by the day.

Al-Iryani who is here for the first Tehran-Sanaa joint commission, despite the coming meeting as an indication of the "historical" ties between the two countries, despite the critical situation of the region. [sentence as received]

Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister Shafi' Muhsin was in Iran last week to make preparations for the joint commission.

During his three-day stay in the Islamic Republic, al-Iryani will deliver a message to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, from his Yemeni counterpart 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The expulsion of 700,000 Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia has increased Yemen's problems.

In addition to depriving Yemeni workers of their privileges, Saudi Arabia which invited foreign troops to the region, has seized four oil rich areas of neighboring Yemen.

Meets With Velayati

LD2011115390 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—The visiting Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed expansion of bilateral relations, the situation in the region, the Persian Gulf crisis and international developments in their first round of talks here Monday night [19 November].

Al-Iryani who is also deputy prime minister said that the Yemeni nation attaches special importance to its ties with the Islamic Republic. He stressed that the two countries hold similar views and praised Iran for its stands vis-a-vis international issues.

Congratulating unification of the two Yemens, Velayati underlined expansion and consolidation of ties between Iran and Yemen. On the Persian Gulf crisis, the Iranian minister stressed that Tehran prefers peaceful settlement of the issue. "We believe that the regional issues must be solved without any foreign interference," he added.

The Yemeni official arrived here Monday [19 November] to attend the first session of Tehran-Sanaa joint economic commission.

More on Velayati Meeting

LD2011210490 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Iran and Yemen Tuesday [20 November] agreed to set up a subcommittee to finalize the executive regulations [for] their first joint economic commission.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Yemeni counterpart 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani who worked out the agreement, also agreed on the drafting of a letter of understanding to determine the framework of mutual cooperation.

Al-Iryani who arrived here Monday, called for speeding up of bilateral cooperation in commercial, economic, industrial and cultural fields.

"In the light of historical and popular ties between the two countries there are vast grounds for expansion of mutual relations," Velayati said in response.

The two foreign ministers stressed that regional Muslim states should cooperate to minimize the harmful impacts of the Persian Gulf crisis, triggered by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and worsened by the growing U.S.-led military build-up in the region.

In a separate meeting today, Velayati conferred with Secretary General of the Italian Foreign Ministry Bruno Bottai, who expressed his country's keenness for expansion of ties with Islamic Iran.

Bottai also conveyed the 12-nation European Community's desire for better relations with Tehran.

Velayati outlined the Islamic Republic's firm stance vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis and hoped that it would be resolved through peaceful means.

Brazilian Infrastructure Minister Silva Visits

Denies Additional Oil Imports

PY2011012290 Brasil Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Report from Brasilia by Mirian Oliveira]

[Text] Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] purchases of more Iranian oil will be conditioned to the country's needs, while compliance with import contracts signed with Iran is not related to Brazilian exports to that country.

Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva [words indistinct] his advisers here in Brasilia denying reports that Petrobras will be spending an additional $180 million annually on Iranian oil imports. According to Brazilian newspapers, this additional purchase is a method of guaranteeing the deals that the 41 businessmen accompanying Minister Silva to Iran may conclude.

Brazil is presently importing 100,000 barrels of oil a day from Iran, but the Iranian oil minister has proposed to Silva a permanent contract of 200,000 barrels of oil daily.

Minister Silva has been in Tehran since 17 November at the head of a delegation of representatives of public and private companies interested in participating in Iran's national reconstruction program.

Silva will be received by the Iranian president on 20 November.

Meets With President

LD2011123490 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—The visiting Brazilian minister of infrastructural affairs Ozires Silva here Tuesday [20 November] called for closer cooperation among developing nations. The Brazilian official, in a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also called for further expansion of bilateral ties between his country and Iran.

Stressing further promotion of bilateral economic ties, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that Brazil could cooperate with Iran in dam building, expansion of railway network, petrochemical side industries, sugar cane industry and agriculture. The president reiterated Iran's readiness to cooperate with all developing nations, especially in agricultural field.

Later in the day, the Brazilian official met with Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia. Silva said Brazil was interested in assisting Iran in sea transportation, port and road construction, expansion of railway system, and delivery of heavy machinery. He invited Sa'idi-Kia to pay a visit to Brazil and the Iranian minister hoped that bilateral cooperation will be continued.

Meets With Velayati

LD2011204390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Silva, the Brazilian minister of infrastructure, today in a meeting with Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, announced the willingness and readiness of his country to have technical-scientific and technological cooperation with Iran.

In that meeting Mr. Velayati also stressed the expansion of Iranian-Brazilian relations in political, economic, and industrial fields.

Further on Afghan Mujahidin Leaders in Tehran

Second Meeting Held

LD1711202390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] A second meeting of Afghan mujahidin leaders, attended by Mojaddedi, the head of the Afghan mujahidin's interim government in Peshawar; Rabbani, reconstruction minister and leader of Afghanistan's Jamiat-e Eslami; Mortazavi, spokesman for Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party; Mawlawi Mansur, Mawlawi Mo'azem and Mr. Monsef, officials of independent mujahid groups; and a number of Afghan mujahidin commanders, was held in Tehran today.

In the meeting, which took place following the measure approved at the first meeting for the formation of the

Committee for the Study and Advancement of Afghanistan's Political Concerns, the committee's regulations, consisting of five sections, were approved.

In accordance with one of the articles of the regulations of the Committee for the Study and Advancement of Afghanistan's Political Concerns, the committee will hold alternate meetings in Iran, Pakistan, and inside Afghanistan; contact and exchange views with people, officials, and countries which have a view about or are linked with the Afghan issue; and strive to find a reasonable solution to the Afghan problem which will comply with the wishes of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

It is also incumbent on the committee to work toward the formation of a grand assembly comprised of mujahidin leaders and commanders, and prominent Afghans including 'ulema [Islamic scholars], scientists, and various strata of that country's Muslim people.

Afghan Party Chief Meets Official

LD1911100390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. (Jagran), a high-ranking commander of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, met Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in Afghan affairs. During the meeting, Mr. (Jagran) first expressed his pleasure and gladness about coming to Iran and meeting the esteemed leader Khamene'i. He thanked the Iranian leader and authorities for endorsing and supporting the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan.

Referring to the fact that the party is a fledgling one, he said: The Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan should be culturally, financially, and militarily strengthened to enable it to implement industrial and agricultural projects in Afghanistan.

He said about his trip to Pakistan and his talks there: In Pakistan, we declared that we are prepared to talk about Afghanistan's military and security issues. He added: We consider Afghanistan's political issues to be the concern of the political leaders of the Unity Party who are stationed in Iran.

Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi said: The Coalition Council was a prelude to unity. Now that the Unity Party has been formed it has become a stable entity, not only for Shiites but also for our Sunni brothers. The Iranian authorities will not begrudge them any help and cooperation. We consider the problems of our Afghan brothers our own. As the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran has commanded, Iran is a safe house for all Muslims.

Addressed by Khamene'i 20 Nov

LD2011163390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has received a large group of Afghan mojahedin commanders. Addressing them, the leader predicted an immediate and decisive victory for the Afghan Muslim nation.

Ayatollah Khamene'i further urged the mojahedin groups to strengthen their unity in order to achieve their common goal of liberating their country with the aid of Islamic teachings, which the leader described as the most effective way of doing away with the problems facing Muslims.

The leader then stated that the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan can be the only favorable outcome of the years of struggle by the Afghan people against foreign domination.

At the conclusion of the address, Ayatollah Khamene'i spoke about the unique and outstanding leadership of the late imam, and said that without it Muslims could not have witnessed the resurgence of their religion.

KDP-Affiliated Terrorist Group Arrested

LD2011094190 Tehran IRNA in English 0752 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Members of a terrorist group in the Kurdish-populated western province of Kurdistan were arrested and handed over to judicial authorities, Information Ministry announced here Monday [19 November].

The terrorists who operated as a team are affiliated to the outlawed Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] assassinated two revolutionary guards and injured another one in the provincial capital, Sanandaj, last summer.

They have also confessed that they had the intention to kill other revolutionary guards, Muslim peshmergas and other local forces in the province, the announcement added. According to the confessions the group planned to attack the local security and military headquarters with RGP-7 and to extort money from the inhabitants and kill anyone who refused to make cash contributions to the KDP.

Eight Drug Traffickers Killed in Desert Shootout

LD2011175390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] In a heavy and surprising attack, implemented in the Baft and Sirjan desert districts, an experienced armed caravan which was involved in drug-trafficking and played a substantial role in the import of narcotics and was also engaged in banditry in the eastern regions of the country was smashed.

The report of the Central News Unit also indicates that in the operations, which were staged with the cooperation of a number of units from the Abuzar tactical base, the Islamic Revolution Committee, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Gendarmerie, and the Kerman District security office, eight members of that armed

caravan, including Amir and Nur-Mohammad Naru'i and Karim Kur, were killed and another was arrested by the operating forces. Two of those killed were Afghans.

Also in the operations, three vehicles, seven weapons and the sum of 80 million rials in cash, were confiscated by the guards.

It is worth mentioning that 'Abbas Naru'i, an experienced and active character involved in the import and distribution of narcotics and also involved in banditry, was the leader of the gang. Previously, he was involved in eight clashes with the Guards and the Islamic Revolution Committee Forces. He also martyred eight members of the dear guards.

The Islamic Revolution Committee also stressed: Following the Nasr operations, a series of operations to destroy drug traffickers with the cooperation of all responsible forces in the region, will continue to be staged until armed drug traffickers and bandits are annihilated.

*RESALAT Report on 3 Oct Majles Session

91AS0107A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
4 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. In this session, the deputies from Ardebil, Nahavand, and Mashhad spoke as pre-agenda speakers and then the Majles was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks of the preagenda speakers and the laws sanctioned by the Majles:

Qazipur, the Representative of the People of Ardebil: Heed That Differences Do Not Discourage the Islamic Nation From Participation in Elections

The first preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Qazipur, the representative of the people of Ardebil, who offered his congratulations on the occasion of Solidarity Week and release of the Hezbollah POWs. He then recited the Koranic verse "Attach yourself to God's rope and do not disperse..." on the occasion of Solidarity Week and remarked:

The Almighty God orders that by attaching to God's rope division and differences must be avoided. Therefore, in unity and solidarity, there must be attachment to God's rope. He then points out that, before the appearance of Islam, you the devout were burning in the pits of differences and corruption and were in a constant state of pain and agony. The Almighty God delivered you from those differences and saved you through Islam. Therefore, it is Islam and following the Right [God] that can root out the differences.

He added: If the root of division is not prevented from taking hold and the germs of division find suitable breeding ground in the society, they will eventually gain strength and endanger the Islamic society. The reason for the defeat of other nations in the past, after achieving initial victory, has been as a result of divisions. This is why the imam of the nation (may God sanctify his soul) time and again spoke on the issue of togetherness and setting aside differences.

In connection with Solidarity Week, the speaker pointed out: Solidarity Week is not just for advocating unity among Muslims of different sects. Indeed, it is a divine tradition and a firm Islamic practice which all must follow. In spite of any possible differences in religious beliefs, particularly, the eminent danger results from division among the clergy—especially the revolutionary clergy. The imam of the nation says: "Another issue today is the question that, who benefits from confronting and dividing the clergy? Enemies have long been prepared to advocate division among the clergy and neglecting this matter will result in the loss of everything." We all must realize the significance of our responsibilities, purify our intentions, take the guidance of our late imam, and do not allow temporary and worldly posts and responsibilities distract us from our main duties.

Mr. Qazizadeh [as published—should be Qazipur] also said: We expect of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, to guide the Islamic nation in this regard with his wise leadership. Such divisions, temporary or chronic, should not cause discouragement of the Islamic nation from participation in the elections. The imam of the nation (may God sanctify his soul) in his divine political will says: "My advice to the noble nation is that, if they show negligence in any of the elections—the presidential election, the Majles elections, or the election of experts to determine the leader of a council of leadership—and do not elect the experts in accordance with the divine writ and the law, it may result in irreversible damages to Islam and the country and, for which, all will be responsible before God."

May this prophet-like will of our dear imam not be forgotten in these critical days.

Concluding his remarks, the representative of the people of Ardebil pointed out the difficulties of water and bread distribution in his constituency and requested that they be resolved.

Ahmad Zamanian, the Representative of the People of Nahavand: You the Ever-Present-on-the-Scene Hezbollah! Heed the Leader's Decree and Participate in the First Experts Elections After the Imam and Thwart the Goal of Those Who Wish to Weaken These Elections

Mr. Ahmad Zamanian, from the Nahavand constituency, was the second pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles. He began his remarks by praising the sacred spirit of the imam and the exalted leadership.

In continuation, he added: In the aftermath of the last sanctioned resolution during the concluding session of the

experts gathering and their revolutionary and divine decision, which prepared the ground for eradication of sediments of the revolution, trouble makers began their mischievous acts. Their harsh work resulted in a bitterness which has offended one and every member of the nation.

With the misperception that they are unrivaled, some engaged in rhetoric, some engaged in accusations, and some praised thinking that other deputies are silent because they are scared, weak, or in agreement with them. None of these had been or is the case.

Firstly, if we kept silent it was for the reason that we did not wish to take a step without the permission of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult].

Secondly, throughout the history, we allowed the competition to make the first move, but when we struck our blow has been deadly.

Thirdly, We did not wish to upset the exalted families of martyrs, the disabled veterans, the POWs, and our heroic nation.

Fourth, we allowed you to reveal your own atrociousness so that you yourselves determined the nation's response toward you.

Be assured that the nation is alert and will deal with you at the appropriate time and, by such talks, you have shown your true color.

He added: Now we have lost our patience because we see that agitators have stepped into the sacred domain of the leader, the beloved president, and the esteemed Council of Guardians (which is indeed the distinguishing line for legitimacy of the Majles and in its absence the Majles is void of credibility). Since your group finds its members on the verge of isolation, they wish to shake the firm pillars of the revolution—without concern about the special situation in the Middle East region and the Persian Gulf—they wish to intensify the flames of division and disunity.

You can say whatever you wish to say, but know that our alert nation, with its decisive vote, will soothe the hearts of the beloved leader, the esteemed president, and the noble members of the Council of Guardians.

Continuing his remarks, he added: Harun al-Rashid 'Abbasi [of the 'Abbasid caliphs], after pilgrimage to the House of God in Mecca, upon entering into Medina, gave pouches of gold to the powerful, in order to insure their obedience, and to the poor, in order to cajole them. He then went to the tomb of the prophet of God and said: O Prophet of God! For the sake of Islam and the people, I shall take your grandson Musa Ibn Ja'far with me for a while. He then ordered the arrest and imprisonment of His Eminence. And now, this is the policy of these gentlemen. They assault the name of the imam, the exalted leadership, the Council of Guardians and their legal rulings. However, they must know that the people are aware and such policies are outdated and the results of Monday's ballots will demonstrate this.

In reference to last Sunday's pre-agenda remarks of Mr. Khalkhali, Mr. Zamaniyan said: One of these gentlemen spoke about the imam's endorsement. First, I must say that the past is confirmatory of the future and not an explanation. For this reason the imam said: "The prevailing status of individuals is important." The great prophet of Islam used to refer to Zubeyr Bin 'Awam as "Sword of God." O dear brothers and the heroic nation! Was Zubeyr still the "Sword of God" after he joined with Talheh and waged the "War of Jamal" against 'Ali (peace be upon him)? You are confronting 'Ali and your disrespect and referring to the exalted leadership by his name is a clear sign of this.

Mr. Zamanian, in reference to last Tuesday's pre-agenda speech of Mr. Bayat, stated: I take refuge with God for what was instilled in this gentleman's statement.

In the beginning of his broadcast, he said that, "if I do not express my views I will have committed a sacrilege."

The report of RESALAT's parliamentary reporter concerning this session indicates that at this point a number of deputies started cat-calling to prevent the continuation of Mr. Zamanian's speech. Then, Mr. Hadi Ghaffari came toward the podium and began assaulting and battering Mr. Zamanian. At this point, also, Mr. Saleh-Abadi tore the text of Mr. Zamanian's speech and the Majles rostrum was disrupted for a few minutes.

The following is the continuation of the text of Mr. Zamanian's speech:

Mr. Bayat! Were your remarks opinion or accusations, allegations and disrespect toward those respected by the law, the people, and the imam.

Mr. Bayat! What religion and sect has given you such a permission. What religious guideline has authorized you to be so disrespectful toward the jurists of the esteemed Council of Guardians who are among the most prominent scholars and jurists in Iran; the imam has endorsed each and every one of them and everyone of them is considered to be a pillar of the land.

Mr. Bayat! Ayatollah Khaz'ali was considered an indisputable jurist during the time of the late Grand Ayatollah Borujerdi. He knows the Koran and the Nahj ol-Balaqeh [the book of 'Ali] by heart. Prior to the revolution, many times he had been the subject of SAVAK's [the shah's secret police] injustices. His son was martyred at the same time. From that time until now, despite old age, he has been active in the service of the revolution, the same as the great Ayatollahs Mo'men, Jannati, and others. Time and again they were endorsed by our beloved late imam, and the pious and gnostic life style of every one of these great ones has less material value than the wheel of some peoples' car. Is it appropriate that you and your group assault these spiritual assets of the revolution in such a way?

Mr. Bayat! You said that the esteemed Council of Guardians has been disrespectful and has dishonored the

scholars who have served over a thousand years. Tell me which one of you is over one thousand years old?

Mr. Bayat! The resolution of the experts as a law is a consideration of the Council of Guardians and by its enactment the revolution shall be cleansed from the sediments. Certainly what must go will be the impurities.

It is said that an ant was being carried away by water and it was screaming that the world is being drowned. A wise bystander said: Hold your peace ant! You are the only one being overwhelmed by water. The world is still standing.

Mr. Bayat! The revolution, the leadership, and the Council of Guardians are alive and well. You should worry about yourself.

Mr. Bayat! You invited the esteemed Council of Guardians to a scholastic challenge. Wonder of wonders for I see the weak sparrow going to war with the mighty eagle and I see a mountain spring challenging the ocean. Mr. Bayat! First pass the hurdle of the students of the jurists of the Council of Guardians and then go after the teachers. With the permission of the exalted leadership and the supervision of the Council of Guardians, let us lock horns and engage in a a scientific debate to be broadcast from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic.

I am the son of a farmer who entered the sacred order of clergy at the age of 13. After 1331 [21 Mar 1952-20 Mar 1953] I entered the theological centers of Nahavand and Borujerd. In 1336 [21 Mar 1957-20 Mar 1958] I migrated to Qom. At the time of Ayatollah Borujerdi's death, I had completed Sathe and Moqadamat [Level and Preliminaries—theological studies] and had moved on to the Kharej-e Feqh and the Principals. From then until the time of employment, I studied in the classrooms of such scholars as his eminence the imam and, later, the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani. In 1342 [21 Mar 1963-20 Mar 1964] I entered the struggle and in the war of Feyzieh I was actively involved and fought until 9:00 PM—witnessed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hashem Hoseyni and Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Ahmadi, the imam's representative in the Cultural Revolution Headquarters—and as a result of the beatings my body was badly bruised.

I was detained many times after that, and once I was exiled to Chabahar for one year. This coincided with the exile of the beloved leader of the revolution where I was a subject of his gracious kindness and he, also, is my witness. In any event, I will defend my revolution, my leader, and the order of clergy to the last drop of my blood.

O innocent nation of Iran...O the ever-present-on-the-scene hezbollah in line with the order of the leadership...Under the present circumstances, when the world-monger America has set up its tents of heresy beside the Islamic Republic of Iran and its agents are spreading seeds of turmoil in the region, participate in the first elections of experts since the passing of the imam and, thus, please the great spirit of of the imam and his children, especially the exalted leader. Throw cold water at those who wish to create weaknesses in these elections.

In line with our religious duties and logic, we consider unquestionable obedience to the leadership as our responsibility.

Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, the Representative of the People of Mashhad: The Imam's Line Is Exactly the Same as the One to Which the Radical Faction Claims To Adhere

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Hadi Khamene'i, the representative of the people of Mashhad, who said: We regret that in the sacred Solidarity Week, in which all microphones, messages, and all organizations in the country must herald the leader, the most sacred institutions have turned into sounding boards and proclaimers of division and activities detrimental to the spirit of solidarity.

He added: After the victory of the revolution, two schools of thought were established in the country. One, the so-called radical, is a faction composed of those who emphasized the line of the imam. Among the characteristics of this line are opposition to growth of capitalism and opposition to an open door political approach, void of revolutionary restraints and opposed to allowing misfits and satanists [monarchists] from joining the main national organizations. On the contrary, the second school of thought adheres to principals incongruous with this line (although this opposition may not apply 100 percent to some individuals and trends associated with this line). The second group advocates the growth of capitalism and capitalists, is fully in agreement with, and takes to an extreme, the open-door approach in politics and agrees with extensive and unruly connections with all countries, without any condition or restraints. Naturally, as a prelude, they all agree with and strongly advocate the inclusion of misfits in the main national organizations, universities, and offices. From the outset, the hezbollah has been in a clash with this tendency. The issue of appointments for universities and offices is a long and detailed story which the hezbollah will forever keep in mind. It shall also remain embedded in history.

The speaker also added: The imam has precisely the same line as that which the followers of the imam's line, or the radical faction, claim to advocate. There is no doubt about this and anyone who denies it, should look at the imam's words and phrases, which require no interpretation. Of course, on the management scene, in order to safeguard the revolution from the harm of the malevolent, the imam adopted a winsome method and used both factions in the management field. It was the imam's view that whatever seems to appear as differences between the two factions is, more or less, preferential and political rather than fundamental and ideological. However, contrary to the imam's view, the other side has always tried to utilize all broadcast methods and assert that, "our opposite side is deviant, anti-Islamic, and communist." These activities, based on this view,

are reflected on all propaganda scenes and publications of this faction. Their newspapers and their speeches, with the grace of God, are full of such assertions. Such moves were intensified even during the time of the imam, as well as after his death when a new element was added to it. That is opposition to velayat-e faqih.

In continuation, he added: If the hezbollah, the clergy in the line of the imam, the jailed and tortured, those present on the scene of the revolution since 1341 and 1342 [21 Mar 1962-20 Mar 1964], and those famous for their unquestionable obedience to the line of the imam are considered to be in opposition to velayat-e faqih, then who in this country remain as followers of velayat-e faqih? What remains is members of the hojjatiyeh, the anti-revolutionary, the liberals, and others.

Hadi Khamene'i pointed out: This minute-by-minute and eventual move for annihilation of the opposition has reached its highest intensity in the threshold of the experts elections. Of course, from the point of view of politicians, this move seems to be a bit premature and unskillful. It would be better if they had been more patient and moved step-by-step. There could be various excuses for elimination of some individuals.

Continuing his speech, in reference to the Assembly of Experts, he said: In the past, during the first Assembly of Experts, the filter of qualifications was in the form of the level of education, to be a jurist. Among the experts of the first group were a number of competent individuals. We, ourselves, and all others say that one of the feats of the Assembly of Experts was the selection of a leader, which is considered to be its greatest task. If you consider this task to be nullified, then, in view of that treachery, what are your views about that great achievement of the experts? If you wish to question the selection of the leader, then indeed you will be distorting its achievements. During that period, the issue of a filter appeared in the form of knowledge and jurisprudence which, intellectually and logically, its reasons were considered in the form of a detailed letter signed by a number of clergy and addressed to the exalted leadership which, if he considers it appropriate, its content may be divulged to others.

The speaker also questioned the jurists of the Council of Guardians and said: The responsibility which has been assigned to the esteemed Council of Guardians was done at the most inopportune period. The reason being that—from months ago or, rather, years ago—a number of council members had officially adopted political positions within the society and in their speeches. One of these gentlemen, who I shall not name, adopted a political line in all of his speeches and is among the most radical members of the opposition faction. Another one of these gentlemen, on the verge of the elections, goes to Khuzestan and, via a government helicopter, he is shipped from one place to another in order to speak officially about the elections. Is this suitable? The people who have adopted the official line in their speeches and are known to belong to a faction should be given the task. They should not be given the scissors and put in charge of the beard. They should not be given the task of determining who should be included and who shouldn't.

In regard to his invitation for taking the test—issued by the Council of Guardians—he said: The gentlemen determined last Wednesday as the day for the examination and so informed me the night before. Naturally, under such circumstances, the invitation to test cannot be a logical and acceptable act. We noted that many individuals who had studied the Kharej lessons have been presumed to have passed the test without even being invited to take the examination. We were hearing these things from here and there. It can be said that, under the present circumstances, if you ask anyone—no matter how naive about national issues and current affairs—it is widely known that these activities are annihilation activities and there is no other explanation for them.

He added: We believe that this move is not at all in the interest of the country and the Islamic revolution. Of course, we do not think all these designs are the work of these brothers and—since many of these gentlemen lack any experience in political work—see others as puppet masters behind the scenes.

In conclusion, he said: If our presence in the revolution is really not in the future interest of the country, state this decisively and like a man, and we will move out of the way and remove ourselves from the scene as a noble move for the sake of the revolution. However, considering the mistakes and wrongdoings by a specific group and without coordination with officials, we shall not allow such a thing under any circumstances.

Remarks by the Deputy Speaker of the Majles

After remarks by the pre-agenda speakers, Mr. Hashemiyan in his remarks honored the birthday of the prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) and Solidarity Week and said: His eminence the imam (may his spirit be place in heaven) always and in all of his speeches advised the regime's officials and emphasized their reliance on the people. He used to say: "Our officials must not lose the support of the people. The day when, as a result of the officials' actions, the people are lost, that is the day when the life of the revolution ends." Another advice was that, "the indifferent rich and economic monopolists must not secure dominance over the country." Another one of his often repeated advice was emphasis on solidarity and he always insisted that responsibilities be fulfilled in accordance with policies. We must, especially in these critical days, consider the presence of the imam's spirit. Is the spirit of the imam in agony as a result of the prevailing turmoil or not? No doubt it is in pain and the discord must be rooted out. What is the root of the turmoil? As I speak here, I take God as my witness that I am making these statements while seeking inspiration from the divine power and consider it my duty to discuss some issues so that a solution can be found to eradicate the turmoil.

The speaker said: The experts of the nation wish to elect jurists, sources of emulation, and the well informed. As long as they are intellectuals and susceptible to scholarly functions, it suffices, even though they may not be jurists. (Chatter among the deputies.)

Mr. Hashemiyan added: Between myself and my God, I am not talking about if the gentlemen were invited for tests or rejected or to what political persuasion they belong. I am talking about the root of the turmoil and request from the exalted leadership to have the root burned out. A number of these had permission from several credible jurists for jurisprudence up to the Tajazzi which means, at least, they are qualified to select a jurist or the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult].

He added: However, Faqih [skill in religious jurisprudence] has many dimensions of which jurisprudence is only one. Another dimension is politics. If you refer to the Constitution, you see that he must have political perception, be a manager, possess wisdom, and be brave. Therefore, determining such characteristics, religiously, for someone who is considered to be a religious intellectual is adequate. Therefore, if some are forced out of the chariot of responsibility it results in turmoil—which is contrary to the trend of solidarity.

He added: Is the great spirit of the imam (may he be placed in heaven) pleased with the situation that a number of worthy and religiously qualified officials are eliminated?

Continuing he added: As a Muslim Iranian, I beseech the exalted leadership to interfere in the scene and root out the problem. There is no problem if the elections are postponed in order to correct the affairs and the roots of turmoil are dried out. So far, every election held in the Islamic Republic has been warmly welcomed by the people and, God willing, they shall welcome this one as well.

In conclusion, once again he requested that the exalted leadership personally interfere in order to resolve the situation.

Majles Enactments

The first item on the agenda during yesterday's open session of the Majles was the report of the first round of deliberations on the plan for "formation of the commission for eradication of deprivation" which, after remarks by proponents and opponents, its generalities were put to vote but did not pass.

The second item was the double-urgency plan to "affix the number of candidates in elections."

In this connection, a number of deputies requested the immediate withdrawal of its urgency. As one of the signatories of the request for the withdrawal of the urgency status, Mr. Bahonar pointed out that, since the Assembly of Experts elections will definitely be held on the prescribed day, which is Monday 8 October, then this plan does not effect this election and, thus, there is no urgency for presentation of the plan.

Also, Messrs. Eslami, in opposition, and Raja'i-Khorasani, in agreement, made some remarks. Then the withdrawal of urgency status was put to a vote but did not pass.

In the aftermath of rejection of this suggestion, the generalities of this plan were discussed. The continuation of its investigation, however, was postponed until the next session.

The Majles shall hold an open session next Sunday morning.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Agreement Reached on Border Trade with Xizang

BK1811063590 Hong Kong AFP in English
0527 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 18 (AFP)—Talks here between Tibetan and Nepalese trade officials ended with an agreement to facilitate and step up cross-border trade, the state radio reported.

The Tibetan delegation had a week of talks with a Nepalese team led by Commerce Secretary N.R. Sharma on ways and means to cut costs of overland transport services and to expand bilateral trade, the radio said Saturday.

The talks were the fourth in an annual series alternating between Kathmandu and Lhasa.

Trade flows through 17 checkpoints along the two countries' 1,400-kilometer (880-mile) frontier, with the balance heavily in Tibet's favour, officials say.

The Tibetan delegation had a meeting with Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai also attended by Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Li Debiao before leaving here for Lhasa on Saturday, the radio report said.

Tibet is an autonomous region of China.

Cabinet Notes Satisfaction With Constitution

BK0911150890 Hong Kong AFP in English
1446 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 9 (AFP)—Nepal's Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and other ministers Friday expressed their satisfaction with the new constitution in a closed door meeting shortly after its promulgation by King Birendra.

At a press conference later Mr. Bhattarai said he was delighted with the event as it marked the culmination of a 30-year fight by the Nepalese people.

"We, the Nepalese people were subverted for 30 years under the partyless constitution of 1962 which has now been finally abrogated by the king," Mr. Bhattarai said.

He described the new constitution as an historic one, fully guaranteeing human rights and individual freedoms, adding it would "help the Nepalese people develop economically."

Mr. Bhattarai said although the king still had the power to declare a state of emergency, it would not make him an absolute monarch as he had to act on the advise of the Council of Ministers.

Asked what measures the Council of Ministers would take to deal with opposition to the new constitution, Mr. Bhattarai said "one of the important feature of the constitution is the freedom (of) expression... Therefore if anybody does not like it" they had the right to "express their resentment."

He added the council were keen to hold general elections as scheduled either at the end of March or in mid-April 1991.

Meanwhile thousands of youths, including students, held a victory demonstration, while people lit up their houses in the evening to celebrate the new constitution.

Some had even taken care to ensure they had separate generators available in case of a power blackout, which is not uncommon here.

Earlier a group belonging to the Nepal Rastriya Janamukhi Morcha (Nepal National People's Freedom Movement) had called on people to switch off their lights to protest the king's declaring Nepal a Hindu kingdom in the constitution.

On Thursday some 100 Nepal Communist Party youth activists staged a torchlight procession demanding the constitution meet "people's aspirations."

They were joined by a second group who called on people in the capital to turn off their lights to protest the official celebration of Queen Aishworya's 42nd birthday.

The birthday, which falls on November 9, was celebrated Thursday at a low-key ceremony in contrast to previous celebrations which had involved a national festival and a two mile (three kilometre) long procession through the capital led by the prime minister and other senior officials.

Communists Denounce Constitution; Police React

BK1011004490 Hong Kong AFP in English 2017 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 9 (AFP)—Nepalese police late Friday fired tear gas at about 2,000 Communists who denounced the monarchy for promulgating what they called a reactionary constitution.

As they marched through the main market areas of the capital here, Nepal Communist Party members shouted "Down with King Birendra," "Long live the Nepal Communist Party" and "We do not accept a reactionary constitution."

In efforts to disperse the protestors, police fired tear gas at them and charged with batons. Responding to a call from the Nepal Communist Party, businesses and homes switched off their lights to protest the Constitution decreed friday.

The Constitution establishes a constitutional monarchy and guarantees a multiparty political system, consolidating the gains made earlier this year by a popular movement against almost 30 years of partyless politics.

Meanwhile over 15,000 pro-democratic Nepali Congress activists and the Nepal Student's Union, including thousands of women, banded together in a Kathmandu township to celebrate the victory of their movement. The head of the National Democratic Party and former Panchayat prime minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, also welcomed what he described as the dawning of a new political era in the country.

"We submit ourselves before the people's court as a democratic party," he said. "We accept any verdict the people may hand us. We are prepared to live and grow with the people and we share as our own, their joys, sorrows, hopes and aspirations."

Buddhists Voice Opposition to New Constitution

OW1311102990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov. 13 KYODO—Nepalese Buddhists called on Tuesday for religious equality in the Himalayan kingdom with a population of 19 million.

The Dharmodaya Sabha, or the Religious Development Council, deplored the new Constitution which has described Nepal as a "Hindu Kingdom."

"The reference even amounts to distortion if Nepal's multireligious and multilingual character is taken into account," said a resolution passed at a meeting of the Sabha's Central Executive Committee.

The council was created in Sarnath, India, 45 years ago, after Buddhism was outlawed briefly in Nepal.

"It is also regrettable that the legitimate demand of the Nepalese people for declaration of Nepal as a secular state was turned down," the resolution said, adding the council will continue to raise its voice for religous equality.

Buddhists account for 6 percent of the total population of Nepal.

Journalist Arrested for Criticizing Queen

BK1611011090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1904 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 15 (AFP)—A journalist has been arrested under Nepal's State Offence and Punishment Act for allegedly criticising Queen Aishworya in a newspaper article, a press source here said Thursday.

Nimkant Paudyal, executive editor of the weekly YOJANA newspaper, was arrested Wednesday for allegedly writing an article critical of the queen and detained pending legal action, the source said without elaborating.

The act was promulgated in 1989 by the partlyess Panchayat system, which ended following a massive pro-democracy campaign earlier this year.

Separately, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai Thursday criticised the act at a legal conference here on grounds it allows lengthy detention without a writ of habeas corpus.

Bhutan

Thousands in Silent March for Democracy

BK2011011690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1755 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 19 (AFP)—Several thousand people marched silently here Monday in support of a movement by Bhutanese people in Nepal for democracy and human rights in their country.

At a mass meeting at the end of the procession, the general secretary of the Marxist Nepal Communist Party, Mana Mohan Adhikari, said his party sympathized with the Bhutanese struggling for freedom, the Nepalese national news agency RSS reported.

"We have to support the Bhutanese people's movement with the same spirit with which we took part in the liberation movement of India and are raising our voice against the apartheid policy of South Africa," Mr. Adhikari said.

Expressing concern over Bhutanese Government control over religion, culture, tradition and culture, he said: "though we put and end to a despotic system in our country, Bhutan has not yet been able to get rid of such a system."

The head of the Nepal University Teachers' Association Kamal Krishna Joshi said the support of the Nepalese "will go a long way in boosting the morale of the Bhutanese."

Pakistan

Paper Criticizes Oakley's 'Cynical Remarks'

BK2011122690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Stakes Are High"]

[Text] That all is far from well between Pakistan and the United States has been made evident once again by the cynical remarks on the current state of relations between the two countries attributed to His Excellency, Mr Robert B. Oakley, by a national Urdu daily on Monday. The US Ambassador is reported to have said something to the effect that the new democratic government of Pakistan did not for the time being have any time to devote to the question of resumption of the suspended American aid to this country. What is even more enlightening is the query reportedly posed by the American envoy about the whereabouts of the new democratic government of Pakistan! Mr Oakley has also considered it fit to send in a response to a column carried last week by an English-language daily from Lahore on Pakistan's relations with the United States. The American Ambassador's letter, carried by the Lahore daily also on Monday, does not paint a rosy picture of the prospects of US aid's early resumption to Pakistan. On the other hand, there has not been any let up either in the expression of the Pakistan leadership's resolve not to let US assistance to this country be used as an instrument to bring about changes in basic aspects of national policy, including the nuclear option. At the same time, the retention, at least for the time being, of certain individuals at responsible political positions in the new representative era, who can act as bridges of communication with a clearly estranged Washington, is a prudent act signifying Islamabad's standpoint of not calling of dialogue on even the sensitive issues which have been brought to the fore in the bilateral equation.

But it seems that the Americans are once again finding it difficult to show enough appreciation for such intangibles as the sovereign pride of a Third World nation. Nothing else explains the latest round of out-of-turn outbursts by His Excellency, the US Ambassador. Nevertheless, it is heartening to note that the initial expressions of sovereign resolve by the powers that be in Pakistan, which were sneered at by the compulsive cynics as nothing more than politically-motivated rhetoric, have of late been followed up by definite moves aimed at finding alternate sources of international support. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is not a man swayed easily by optimism, and he returned from Tokyo last week with hopes of qualitatively new economic relationship with Japan which is now both ready and willing to reach out to the developing Asian societies, particularly those in West Asia and Central Asia opening through Pakistan. Needless to add that the Japanese are only too well aware that any such initiative on their part may fall outside of and could even be opposed to the American scheme of things for this region.

The same is true of the emerging new economic giant of a United Germany, whose leader was one of those whom President Ishaq mad eit a point to meet in Tokyo. However, Pakistan President's one meeting in Tokyo, arranged apparently at the last moment which must have raised quite a few eyebrows, not only in Washington and London, but also in the capitals of the middle Eastern regimes siding with the Western military buildup, was with the Sudanese strongman. As if this 'audacity' was not enough, the short stop-over planed for the Sudanese President in Pakistan on his way back home was converted to a two-day, high-profile State visit to this country. All these developments may not amount to much more than straws in the wind, but they are unlikely to be dismissed lightly by our traditional 'friends' in the West as also in the Muslim Middle East. Unfortunately, the significance of the changes is not getting the requisite back-up by even those in this country who have spent their lifetime in shouting hoarse about Western imperialism. Perhaps, the fault also lies in part with the present democratic structure's inability in taking the nation fully into confidence on the issues and options available to it.

Given the conviction with which Islamabad has proceeded to assert national will and self-respect on the question of American alms for this country, there must be no underrating the social disruption which could be engineered domestically by both internal and extraneous interests which would like the foreign stranglehold to perpetuate. If the common approach of Western powers and their proxies in the Middle East, as is now functional with reference to the Gulf crisis, is also to start operating within Pakistan's domestic situation as well, and that possibility cannot be ruled out, the avenues of instability could go well beyond the political domain. In that context, it becomes imperative that the nation be kept fully posted on not only the stakes involved for independent Pakistan in striking a bold new posture of sovereignty, but also on the modalities of the policy blueprint. The people of Pakistan have only recently given an unambiguous verdict in favour of national emancipation in last month's elections. Their continued involvement with the basic premise, which happens to form an essential element of Mian Nawaz Sharnif's electoral mandate, alone can guarantee against pitfalls on the way. In the present set of regional circumstances, it is easy enough to say 'No, thanks', to Uncle Sam and his 'nephews' in the neighbourhood; but it is unlikely that Pakistan cna deliver itself of the deadly embrace without a lot of effort. That can be achieved only through the nation acting in unison. It is about time the elected Prime Minister stepped forward to publicly provide the lead.

Nawaz Sharif Returns From Pilgrimage

BK2011163190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned home today after performing a minor pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. Earlier, he was given a warm send-off when he left Jeddah for home.

President Khan Meets Netherlands Navy Chief

BK2011164190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has welcomed the arms reduction treaty signed by NATO and Warsaw Pact countries in Paris yesterday, describing it as a very significant step forward. He was talking to Vice Admiral (John Hevan Hois), the commander in chief of the Netherlands Navy, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president expressed the hope that similar agreements will be reached in other parts of the world, including South Asia. The president referred to the efforts made by Pakistan during the past several years for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. He said that while the international community has appreciated and supported these efforts, a power in this region is obstructing the implementation of this proposal. He expressed confidence that all states of the region will realize the need for responding positively to new trends in international relations in the larger and long-term interests of their people.

The president referred to India's massive military, especially Naval, buildup, which, he said, poses a threat to neighbroing countries like Pakistan. He reiterated Pakistan's desire for friendly and cooperative relations with India, but added that Pakistan will not accept the hegemony of any other country.

The president reaffirmed Pakistan's principled stand on the Gulf situation and called for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. He expressed hope that the UN sanctions will pave the way for a peaceful settlment of the issue.

The Netherlands Navy chief informed the president of his country's role in international efforts for achieving a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. He stressed the need for increasing bilateral cooperation in various fields, including the Navy.

Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma also met the president. He expressed his country's desire for strengthening relations with Pakistan in various fields. The president noted existing close bilateral ties in the political field and expressed Pakistan's willingness to extend these ties to economic and trade fields as well. The Sierra Leone foreign minister said his country is interested in buying rice and sugar mill plants from Pakistan.

Gasoline Dealers, Oil Tankers End Strike

BK2011154090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1439 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 20 (AFP)—Petrol pumps were back in business Tuesday, ending a strike that had caused severe fuel shortage in major Pakistani cities.

The petrol dealers and oil tankers called off the strike after a settlement with the authorities under which freight rates and the commission on sales will be raised, their association said.

The strike had followed a 41 per cent hike by the government in domestic prices of petroleum products last Wednesday.

Sri Lanka

Three Districts Get Curfew After LTTE Attack

Casualties Cited

BK2011120890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] A curfew was imposed in the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivum with effect from midnight yesterday. A Defense Ministry communique says LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists attacked an Army bunker in the Kankesanturai and Maviddapuram areas of the Jaffana Peninsula. Two soldiers died and four were injured in this incident. In the counterattack, three terrorists were killed by the security forces. The security forces attacked a group of LTTE terrorists at Kokkanai in the Trincomalee District. Three terrorists were killed and their weapons and two jeeps, a motorcycle, communication equipment, and a 40-horsepower outboard motor were recovered. No casualties were reported by the security forces. In a search operation off the Kirigala area, the forces recovered items of food and materials used in the manufacture of explosive devices. According to the communique, the Special Task Force conducted a search operation in Karaitivu in the Amparai District. One hundred and fifty-six suspects were arrested for questioning. After preliminary inquiries, 150 were released to the peace committee at Karaitivu. Six were detained for further investigations.

Further Report

BK2011064490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 20 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has imposed an indefinite curfew in three northern districts, apparently to scuttle attempts by Tamil rebels to hold a rally in memory of their dead, officials said Tuesday.

A military spokesman said here that the curfew went into effect from midnight Monday in the Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

Government officials said the measure was aimed at preventing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) from holding a "heroes week" in Jaffna to commemorate their fighters killed in action since the outbreak of the ethnic unrest in 1983.

Press reports said that members of the LTTE heirarchy were expected to attend a rally marking the festivities to be held from November 21 to 27.

The majority of the guerrilla leaders live in the Jaffna Peninsula, which is the LTTE's main bastion.

At a similar rally in the peninsula in October, a message from Tiger Supremo Velupillai Prabakharan, vowing to continue the secessionist war until the Tamil nation of Eelam was founded, was read out.

Mr. Prabakharan is rarely seen in public and his whereabouts are a well-guarded LTTE secret.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne maintains that the LTTE chieftain was killed months ago in an leadership dispute.

Mr. Wijeratne admitted that despite military intelligence on the previous rally, government forces failed to prevent it because of "a lack of initiative."

The tigers who renewed their separatist war on June 11, control large parts of Sri Lanka's Northern Province.

Meanwhile, the military said that security forces killed a LTTE guerrilla on Monday in the town of Mawaddipuram, near the main Palali Air Force Base in the Jaffna Peninsula.

He was the ninth person, including two soldiers, to die since fresh fighting in the area broke out Saturday.

Mawaddipuram was one of eight rebel-held towns in the outskirts of Palali that fell to government troops during a major offensive in October.

But the guerrillas have conducted repeated night raids on army bunkers set up in the liberated zone provoking a counter offensive from security forces.

According to unofficial and official estimates nearly 4,600 people have been killed in violence since June 11 in the Tamil-dominated northeast.